Milton Keynes City Council

Milton Keynes New City Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

November 2022

Development Plans, Planning and Placemaking

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1. Introduction

What is a Sustainability Appraisal and when is one required?

1.1 Under Section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local planning authorities are required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the proposals in planning documents. A SA is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of local plans and spatial development strategies. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives.

1.2 The process is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social, and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. By doing so, it can help make sure that the proposals in the plan are appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. It can be used to test the evidence underpinning the plan and help to demonstrate how the tests of soundness have been met. SA should be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the plan[1].

1.3 This draft document forms our scoping report for the SA of the emerging Local Plan for the Borough of Milton Keynes (Milton Keynes New City Plan, or MKNCP). The statutory bodies, other consultees and the public will be consulted on the draft Scoping Report over a six-week period starting on 31 January 2023, alongside consultation on the Milton Keynes New City Plan Draft Ambition and Objectives.

1.4 The scoping report covers the requirements of the first of five stages in the SA process and will:

- Identify the objectives of plans, policies, and programmes (from an international to local scale) that are relevant to the MKNCP.
- Collect an evidence base, against which the sustainability of the plan can be assessed.
- Based on the evidence, identify the key social, environmental, and economic issues in Milton Keynes.
- Develop a framework for assessing the sustainability of the MKNCP. This will comprise social, environmental, and economic objectives, based on the objectives of national and local plans, policies or programmes and the issues identified from the baseline evidence.

Sustainable Development

1.5 Following the publication of the *Our Common Future* Report by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987[2], sustainable development is understood to be:

[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal
[2] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf

"Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

1.6 More recently, Paragraph 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021)[3] has specified that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive, and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation, and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; and

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant, and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful, and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built, and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

1.7 Paragraph 7 of the NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

1.8 There are five formal stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process. These are set out in the Planning Practice Guidance and are shown in Figure 1 below. This Scoping Report focuses on the steps outlined under Stage A of the Flowchart. At a high level, work at this stage of the SA process needs to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report. It should set out the context, objectives, and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic, and social issues and objectives.

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

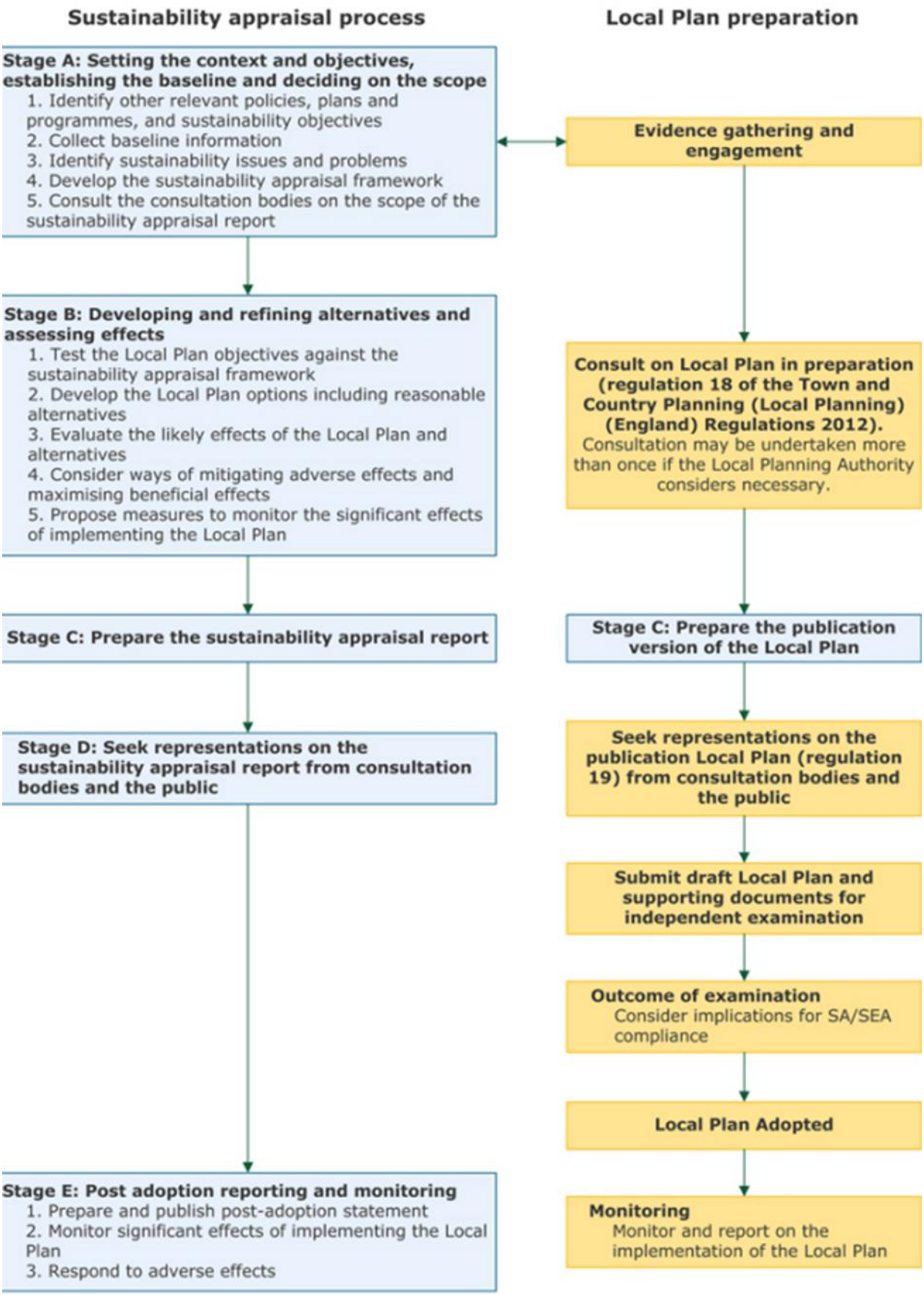

Figure 1.1: Flowchart of Sustainability Appraisal Process. Source: Planning Practice Guidance[4].

[4] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal

What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment?

1.9 Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004[5] (EAPPR), UK law requires plans or programmes which are likely to have significant (positive or negative) environmental effects to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.10 Schedule 1 of the EAPPR sets out several criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. These are set out in greater detail in the *SEA Framework* chapter.

1.11 While a SA and SEA are required by separate legislation, the commonalities between the two processes mean it is appropriate to undertake SA and SEA together. The SA for the MKNCP also incorporates the requirements of the EAPPR. The checklist at Table 1.1 demonstrates where the requirements of the EAPPR to be addressed in the environmental report are met in the SA process.

Table 1.1: How the EAPPR criteria for content of a SEA will be covered through the SA process.

Schedule 2 of the EAPPR		**Corresponding SA Stage**
1	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Stage A1
2	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Stage A2
3	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Stage A2
4	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).	Stage A3
5	The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Stage A1
6	The likely significant effects on the environment, including […] on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Stage B1, B3
7	The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Stage B4
8	An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Stage B2
9	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Regulation 17.	Stage B5

[5] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made

10	A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Introduction

Consultation

1.12 Sections 12 (5) and (6) of the EAPPR state:

"(5) When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.

(6) Where a consultation body wishes to respond to a consultation under paragraph (5), it shall do so within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which it receives the responsible authority's invitation to engage in the consultation."

1.13 The consultation bodies referred to in Sections 12 (5) and (6), and who will be given six weeks to comment on the content of this Report, are:

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England

1.14 Furthermore, in line with Section 13 (2) (b) of the EAPPR, the public will also be consulted on the Environmental Report, and this Scoping Report will be made available for comment through the Council's website.

Links to Other Assessments

1.15 As mentioned at Paragraph 1.2, the SA is an opportunity to demonstrate the soundness of the plan at the Examination in Public stage of preparing the MKNCP. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening report are two additional pieces of work we shall carry out alongside the SA, to further demonstrate and ensure the soundness of the MKNCP.

1.16 The EqIA will ensure we address our statutory duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. There are three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, which Milton Keynes City Council must meet in exercising their functions:

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.
- To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

1.17 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination based on these characteristics. They are:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender Reassignment.
- Marriage and civil partnerships.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.

1.18 The Local Plan will be assessed to consider the likely impacts of the draft policies on each of the nine protected characteristics from the Equality Act 2010 listed above. SA Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 all relate to equalities. During preparation of the SA, consideration will be given to whether the Local Plan accords with these objectives. This process will be reinforced by the detailed EqIA and include specific reference to the three duties and nine protected characteristics in due course.

1.19 The HIA will enable us to ensure and demonstrate accordance with Chapter 8 (Promoting healthy and safe communities) of the NPPF, as well as our statutory duties to take appropriate actions to improve the health of local people under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

1.20 There are overlaps between the content of the SA, HIA and EqIA. For example, the impact of new development on health and well-being is a core consideration of both the SA and the HIA. Moreover, improving the accessibility of residential areas, workplaces, services, and amenities for local communities is an objective of the SA and the EqIA. The links between the SA, HIA, and EqIA and that they shall involve further work at successive stages of the plan-making process, creates the opportunity for an iterative approach to assessing the impacts of the MKNCP.

1.21 Note that while Paragraph 6.13 of our Local Development Scheme 2022-2024[6] includes health and equalities impacts within the scope of work on the SA, we shall be undertaking these assessments separately. However, this will be in a joined-up manner as outlined above.

1.22 Also of note is our statutory duty (under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*[7]) to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to determine if the MKNCP may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether the overall development strategy outlined in the plan is an appropriate strategy. Again, there will be some crossover between the SA process and the HRA; SA Objective 6 is for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets over the plan period. It is expected that, owing to the greater detail of the assessment involved, the HRA will help inform whether the draft MKCP conforms with SA Objective 6.

[6] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-scheme-lds
[7] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made

Future Legislative Changes

1.23 An important consideration as we progress with the MKNCP, and future stages of the SA process, will be the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) currently being considered by Parliament. The LURB contains proposals for reform of the EAPPR 2004 and the SA/SEA process. Government states the proposals would improve the process used to assess the potential environmental effects of relevant plans and major projects, through a requirement to prepare 'Environmental Outcome Reports' assessed against tangible environmental outcomes set by Government[8]. The changes may require that we must change the format and/or content of how we assess the environmental effects of the MKNCP.

1.24 However, the LURB has not yet been made into law and is subject to change. There are also questions about when the changes to the current system would start to apply. It may be that the MKNCP is adopted prior to the proposed reforms coming into effect. We will continue to monitor progress of the LURB through Parliament and shall adapt our work to assess the effects of the MKNCP accordingly in line with statutory requirements.

[8] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-and-regeneration-further-information/levelling-up-and-regeneration-further-information#creating-beautiful-places-and-improving-environmental-outcomes

2. Policies, Plans and Programmes

2.1 As noted in Figure 1.1, the process of identifying the sustainability objectives of other relevant policies, plans, programmes is known as 'Stage A1' in the overall SA process. The documents we have reviewed range from local to national level documents. They have been chosen based on their relevance to the sustainability issues mentioned in Schedule 2 of the EAPPR and Paragraph 8 of the NPPF, as quoted at Paragraph 1.6.

2.2 Table 2.1 is a summary list of the plans and programmes relevant to the MKNCP. A more detailed list can be found in Appendix 1 where for each document there is a summary of that plan's objectives and requirements and an explanation of how these requirements may be addressed in the MKNCP. Note, the list in Appendix 1 is not exhaustive: the plans, policies and programmes cover issues at the most appropriate level to the new plan.

Table 2.1: Summary List of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Topic	**Plan, policy, or programme**
General	• National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • Plan:MK (2019) • Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) Strategy for 2050 (2021) • MKCC Council Plan (2022)
Transport	• Department for Transport Decarbonising Transport: A Greener Better Britain (2021) • National Highways Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020-2025 (2020) • England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Transport Strategy (2021) • EEH Regional Bus Strategy (2022) • EEH Active Travel Strategy (2022) • MKCC Mobility Strategy (2018)
Population	• Community-Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy • Milton Keynes Community Strategy 2004-2034
Climate	• Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) • MKCC Sustainability Strategy Action Plan (2021) • Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)
Environment	• 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)
Waste & Resources	• Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018) • National Planning Policy for Waste (2014) • MKCC Waste Development Plan Document 2007-2024 (2008) • MKCC Minerals Plan (2017) • MKCC Waste Strategy (2017-2022)
Economy	• MKCC Economic Development Strategy 2017-2027 (2017) • Build Back Better: our plan for growth (2021) • MKCC Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023 (2021)

3. Baseline Information

Introduction

3.1 The purpose of this part of the SA process is to identify the environmental, social, and economic issues that characterise the plan area and provide an evidence base against which the potential impacts of the plan may be assessed. As per Figure 1.1., this section of the overall SA process is otherwise known as 'Stage A2'.

3.2 In accordance with articles 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 of the EAPPR, this section addresses "the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" and "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected".

3.3 Sufficient baseline data has been collected to establish key trends and, as a result, any sustainability issues. The data collected creates a baseline from which the effects of the MKNCP can be monitored and recorded in the future. To make this document more accessible and reduce the amount of unnecessary information, hyperlinks to the original datasets are provided where these are available online.

3.4 Some of the data has been collected by external bodies. As a result, we have limited control over the scope of the data and the collection methods used. This is a potential issue for future monitoring and may limit the ability to make reliable comparisons.

3.5 See Appendix 2 for the list of baseline information.

Methodology

3.6 The baseline information is from a variety of sources, including the Office for National Statistics, Historic England, the My Milton Keynes Interactive Mapping system, NHS Digital, the MKCC website, and internal MKCC sources. We have sought to include the most up-to-date information available, but as noted in paragraph 2.6, data availability can be limited by the monitoring methods used by external parties and other services within MKCC.

3.7 Reference is made at the start of each sub-section below about how the data presented relates back to the environmental and synergistic issues listed in Article 6, Schedule 2 of the EAPPR which should form part of the information provided in Environmental Reports.

3.8 The housing market and functional economic market area for planning purposes in Milton Keynes is MKCC's administrative area. However, due to development pressures directly adjacent to the MKCC area, for example at Salden Chase, and due to regional and national transport links passing through the area, comparative data is included about neighbouring authorities which may be affected by the MKNCP. Data for these comparisons have been sourced from the most recent Authority Monitoring Reports for these areas, ONS data and other sources where relevant. Links to the source webpages for the neighbouring authority

AMRs are provided in the footnotes. For clarity, the authorities used for comparison are Central Bedfordshire[9], Bedford Borough[10], Buckinghamshire[11], North Northamptonshire[12], and West Northamptonshire[13]. Note that in some cases, due to a lack of recent statistics for the recently created unitary authorities (Buckinghamshire, North Northamptonshire, and West Northamptonshire), data are presented for the former district authority areas closest to Milton Keynes.

3.9 We shall keep the data in this Chapter under review as the SA process progresses. It is likely that new information will become available as the 2021 Census outputs and evidence base studies for the MKNCP are delivered.

[9] https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/45/planning_policy/472/monitoring
[10] https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/monitoring
[11] https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/planning-reporting/
[12] https://www.nnjpdu.org.uk/site/assets/files/1482/20-21_amr_final.pdf
[13] https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/west-northamptonshire-joint-planning-unit-jpu/joint-monitoring-reports

4. Sustainability Issues and Problems

Introduction

4.1 Article 1(d) of Schedule 1 of the EAPPR 2004 states that "environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme" should be considered when determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

4.2 Article 2 of Schedule 2 of the EAPPR 2004 states that Environmental Reports will list the "relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme".

4.3 In line with the above Articles, this chapter lists the sustainability issues relevant to the MKCC area, as indicated by the plans and programmes listed in Table 2.1, the baseline information provided in Chapter 3, and knowledge of officers within the Planning Service.

4.4 For reference, this process of identifying sustainability issues is otherwise known as Stage A3, as identified in Figure 1.1. This process only includes the challenges relating to social, environmental, and economic characteristics of the Borough. The positive sustainability trends are included in Stage A2 and the collection of baseline data and so are not repeated as part of Stage A3.

4.5 This section is written in plain English where possible and seeks to comment on the broader trends linked to each issue, rather than repeat the statistics included in Chapter 3.

4.6 Stage A3 is iterative and will evolve as more baseline data becomes available from the New City Plan evidence base.

Population

4.7 Recent Census 2021 data indicates that Milton Keynes' population is increasing quickly. It is yet to be seen what the impact of the forthcoming UK recession will be on population growth. However, while we are awaiting robust up-to-date population growth forecasts via the MKNCP evidence base, recent trends indicate that further growth shall occur, not least as development committed to in Plan:MK continues to be delivered through to 2031 and beyond. Further additional population growth poses challenges associated with providing sufficient health, social, education and other types of infrastructure and services, including housing to support the growing population. It may also be challenging to provide sufficient specialist housing and facilities to support an ageing population, which Census data suggests is the case in Milton Keynes.

4.8 Further population growth also makes it harder to protect the environmental characteristics of the area from further potential expansion of the city and surrounding settlements if it is not done in a planned way. Consideration of potential increased pressure on transport and waste systems will also be required. Not delivering the Plan may increase the likelihood that adverse environmental impacts arise because of future development.

4.9 Data also indicates the population is becoming more ethnically diverse. Changes to the make-up of the population may create new needs for different types of accommodation, facilities, services, and infrastructure within the MKCC area. Not delivering the MKNCP may mean that the local development framework does not adequately meet the needs of different groups in the city.

4.10 There are no up-to-date statistics on the proportion of people in Milton Keynes with long-term illnesses and/or disabilities. We are dependent on forthcoming releases of Census information in this respect. However, it is reasonable to predict that as the overall population increases then the number of people with disabilities may also increase. A challenge therefore will be to design and provide suitable types of accommodation, facilities, services, and infrastructure to support people with disabilities. Not delivering the MKNCP may lead to development that does not adequately meet the needs of people with long-term health conditions and/or disabilities.

Crime

4.11 While the rates of some types of crimes have decreased over the past few years, incidents of theft from a person, public order offences, violent, hate and abuse crime have increased. The Plan should consider how new development can encourage good levels of activity at most times of the day, thus providing a high degree of natural surveillance and continuing to discourage criminal activity. Not delivering the MKNCP may lead to increased crime rates in and around new developments to which its policies may have otherwise been a consideration.

Health

4.12 Recent data indicates that life expectancy in Milton Keynes is slightly decreasing. It is less than in Buckinghamshire but is broadly comparable to Bedford Borough. Under 75 mortality rates from all causes, including cardiovascular disease and cancers tends to be slightly better than average when compared nationally. Recent trends for under 75 mortalities in Milton Keynes have also been stable.

4.13 Considering declining life expectancy and to further reduce under 75 mortalities, the new Plan should promote healthier, more active lifestyles and improve the health of the population through careful planning and layout of new development, the location of services and facilities and the provision of transport routes that encourage and facilitate walking and cycling.

4.14 Increasing childhood inactivity levels highlight the need for greater emphasis on the range of physical activities and opportunities on offer for young people, as well as discouraging access to sources of unhealthy foods.

4.15 The prevalence of mental health conditions in Milton Keynes supports provision of a range of opportunities for people to socialise and interact with each other within the built environment, as well as good access to green spaces and recreational opportunities which can support good mental health.

4.16 Not delivering a Local Plan which maximises the opportunities for new development to improve local health outcomes may result in lower quality of life for residents. It may also lead to increased financial burdens on local health services. Good planning and urban design play a large role in reducing the chances of people developing certain health conditions in later life. For example, good access to green spaces, space for food growing, and recreational opportunities can encourage increased activity levels, reducing obesity rates and improving cardiovascular health.

Housing and Regeneration

4.17 As we have used and developed brownfield land around the MKCC area in recent years, the stock of land on the Brownfield Register has decreased. It may therefore become challenging to provide future housing and employment development to meet our current and projected needs, without relying on further greenfield development. Greenfield development brings with it the risk of environmental harms and potentially less sustainable transport patterns unless it is planned appropriately. The MKNCP should identify if there are areas within the city not on the brownfield register that can support sustainable patterns of development.

4.18 Under provision of self-build and custom house-building plots makes it more difficult for people to find land on which they can houses to meet their specific needs. The new Plan should address how sufficient supply shall be provided.

4.19 IMD data indicates the more deprived areas are near/in the older towns of Bletchley and Wolverton which pre-date the New Town construction, as well as the older estates within the New Town itself. The MKNCP should identify how development can help to lower deprivation across the MKCC area.

4.20 A higher-than-average median house price to median earnings ratio may make it more difficult for people in Milton Keynes to enter the housing market, pay off mortgages in a reasonable timeframe, pay reasonable rent levels, and have a greater proportion of their earnings to spend on other goods and services or put into savings.

4.21 Recent increased affordable housing provision is positive. However, changing economic conditions may make affordable access to housing more difficult leading to the number of people in Milton Keynes that are homeless, living in overcrowded accommodation, or seeking temporary accommodation. The MKNCP should ensure that sufficient amounts and types of affordable housing is provided to meet local needs.

4.22 Not adopting an appropriate Local Plan may lead to increased overcrowding, homelessness, and households living in temporary accommodation. It may also lead to increased speculative development in locations that are not preferred or appropriate. These may give rise to associated environmental harms, people having to move away from Milton Keynes due to unaffordable rents/house prices (and linked labour supply issues), and potential failure to ensure a sufficient supply of land for self-build houses.

Economy and Skills

4.23 As with housing development, a shortage of available brownfield land may make it more challenging to provide land to meet our employment floorspace needs without relying on greenfield sites, depending on what floorspace is needed in the future to support a growing economy.

4.24 The average wage exceeds the median wage in Milton Keynes. Therefore, most workers in Milton Keynes earn a wage that is below the average wage level in the MKCC area. This highlights a need to support education and skills development and the creation of more skilled jobs that are accessible to the resident population of Milton Keynes.

4.25 Business survival rates are decreasing, and universal credit claimant rates are higher than the Southeast and national averages. The new MKNCP should clearly identify how it can support education and skills training, existing and new businesses, and job creation.

4.26 Not adopting a Local Plan could make it more difficult for businesses to survive in Milton Keynes, due to uncertainty about the availability of employment land and MKCC's likely response to proposals to improve existing employment sites. This would likely have adverse effects on job creation, inward investment, and may lead to more residents relying on state benefits to meet their needs.

4.27 Recent data suggests a lower percentage of the MK population holds an NVQ4+ level qualification compared with the UK average. GCSE attainments is also below the national average. Continuation of these trends may mean that MK residents are at a competitive dis-advantage when entering the wider workforce, and a lack of well-educated and skilled resident workers would present challenges to employers seeking to recruit and build their businesses. The MKNCP should there seek to provide a suitable range of educational establishments to meet local learning needs, for adults as well as children.

4.28 Not adopting a Local Plan would likely increase the uncertainty associated with delivering new schools and other educational developments. This would likely lead to increased demand on existing schools, facilities, and services. A potential consequence may be overcrowded schools, and worse educational attainment rates. This would have knock on impacts for local productivity and economic prosperity.

Transport

4.29 Failing to increase active travel and use of public transport may inhibit efforts to decarbonise the movement of people in MK and reduce the accessibility of certain locations within the borough, which until now have not been as well served by public transportation as other areas. Future development that does not support active travel and the viability of public transport (or other modal shift interventions which reduce private car dependence) increases the likelihood of not meeting our net zero and carbon negative targets; as well as hindering the inclusivity of our transport network. It will also fail to support, and potentially inhibit, efforts to improve

levels of physical activity (and therefore health outcomes overall) and access to economic opportunities for those unable to access a private car.

Historic Environment and Heritage

4.30 There is a wealth of heritage assets in Milton Keynes. Careful siting, design and management will be required to ensure that new development does not harm these assets. The character and setting of assets should therefore be considered when choosing and developing appropriate development sites. Opportunities to preserve assets in private ownerships, such as Scheduled Monuments, should be taken advantage of where possible. Loss of and harm to valuable local assets may occur if an appropriate Plan is not put in place to ensure they are considered appropriately in planning decisions.

Water, Pollution and Climate Change

4.31 The built environment and transport sectors continue to be a large source of greenhouse gas emissions. It is a driver of climate change which will result in more frequent damaging weather patterns and flood events in the future. There are opportunities to lower carbon footprints by providing more energy efficient housing, more renewable energy sources, locating new development close to existing facilities and services, and improving public transport networks. Such development can also reduce fuel poverty, improve indoor air quality, and reduce overheating risk. There are also many opportunities to provide new development which improves local air quality and makes development more adaptable to a changing climate (such as green walls and roofs and not developing in flood zones). Not delivering a Local Plan which maximises opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change will increase the vulnerability of residents and businesses in Milton Keynes to its effects.

4.32 Predicted water supply deficits pose a threat to residents and businesses in Milton Keynes. From reduced drinking water supplies to reduced goods production and economic output, the effects of water shortages can be wide ranging. This is an issue not fully within the control of MKCC. Water companies such as Anglian Water have important roles to play and are aware of these matters. However, not delivering a plan which ensures new development helps mitigates these issues may reduce the effectiveness of measures taken elsewhere.

4.33 Continued poor water quality in our streams, rivers and lakes may result in adverse impact of environmental and human health, and potential contamination of drinking water supplies. Water quality is not a matter entirely within the control of the planning system. Environmental Permits issued by the EA – regulating the extent of activities undertaken on land and in water bodies across England – play a large role. However, planning does have a role to play in supporting improvements to water quality. Not delivering a Plan which covers these issues may result in a worsening of water quality in water sources in the MKCC and surrounding areas.

4.34 New construction activity, and the developments they produce, increase the amount of potential amenity impacts in an area. The potential for noise pollution increases as a result and may lead to negative impacts on quality of life for local people. Implementation of policies which reduce the chances of noise pollution is therefore an important part of any plan.

4.35 Air quality in Milton Keynes is generally good although air pollution does occur, particularly along major roads. Increases in the future population may lead to increased use of private vehicles with internal combustion engines, increased congestion, and potential increased air pollution. The MKNCP should carefully consider how it will avoid or mitigate this, for instance through support of more sustainable transport modes and shifts away from use of gas-fired central heating systems.

Natural Environment and Biodiversity

4.36 There is a wide variety of natural habitats and biodiversity in Milton Keynes. However, new development poses significant risks to biodiversity and by extension, our ability to combat climate change. Therefore, the MKNCP must ensure risks to biodiversity are either avoided entirely, through careful site selection, mitigated, or in the last instance compensated for. Not delivering a Plan may lead to development in inappropriate locations which leads to reductions in the amount of biodiversity and wildlife sites in the MKCC area.

Minerals

4.37 There is not a significant amount of minerals related development within the MKCC area currently. However, there is a large area where workable mineral deposits may be found. A risk may be that additional housing, employment, and other types of development prevent the future mining and winning of minerals. This may occur because of new development being located above minerals deposits. It may also occur due to new development (especially housing) being located near mineral deposits, resulting in future minerals developments nearby being unacceptable due to the potential adverse impacts of such development, such as noise and air pollution. Failure to adopt a Plan which safeguards potential minerals development sites may result in a situation where local businesses need to import minerals from outside the MKCC area, leading to higher transport carbon emissions, as well as lost employment opportunities.

Waste

4.38 Overall trends in waste management in Milton Keynes, and in the wider South East region, are positive. Only a very small amount of total waste arising in the MKCC area currently goes to landfill. Reuse, recycling, and energy from waste rates all tend to be better than in neighbouring authorities. However, a potential risk is that a growing population (within and beyond Milton Keynes) increases pressure on, and exceeds, the capacity of local waste facilities to sustainably process waste. Increased landfill rates may occur. Where landfill waste will be disposed of after closure of Bletchley Landfill is another consideration. Not adopting a Local Plan which sustainably manages waste may result in adverse environmental consequences, as well as missed opportunities to support a circular economy.

5. SA Framework

Introduction

5.1 As noted in Figure 1.1, developing the SA Framework is otherwise known as 'Stage A4' in the overall SA process. At the heart of the SA Framework, we propose a set of overarching SA Objectives (listed at Table 5.1) which will help ensure a targeted evaluation of the MKNCP.

5.2 The SA Objectives have been drafted based on the Policies, Plans and Programmes reviewed as part of Stage A1, the baseline data (A2), and the sustainability issues (A3). The final version of the SA Objectives used during preparation of the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 versions of the MKNCP will also reflect comments made on the Scoping Report. Appendix 2 contains a list of the SA Objectives, as well as a list of accompanying planning considerations which help to demonstrate the links between each SA Objective and the outputs from Stages A1, A2 and A3. However, the key reason for the considerations is that they represent the starting point for making the assessment criteria and assumptions we will use later in the SA process to score the strategy and policy options.

5.3 When assessing the policy options, the plan and site selection strategies, the SA Objectives will be a tool to aid comparisons between the different options. In this way, the SA Objectives will help to maximise sustainability and finalise an appropriate development strategy. This process will involve making judgements about how well the potential development strategies and policies meet each objective. We propose to base these judgements on pre-set assumptions about how the likely effects of the strategies/policies can be scored using the monitoring indicators for each SA objective consideration. This approach is explained further at Paragraph 4.13 onwards.

Table 5.1: SA Objectives List.

MKNCP Theme	Objective Reference	Objective
High Quality Homes and Neighbourhoods; Healthy Places; Climate and Environmental Action	**1**	Support establishment of walkable neighbourhoods in existing and new areas by 2050.
Healthy Places; High Quality Homes and Neighbourhoods	**2**	Reduced physical and mental health inequalities through well designed places and by improving access to health facilities, good quality green and blue infrastructure, community and leisure facilities for all people in MK by 2050.
Climate and Environmental Action;	**3**	Provide and Improve accessibility for communities in line with our modal shift targets and minimise car dependent communities.

High Quality Homes and Neighbourhoods; Healthy Places	**4**	Over the plan period provide a deliverable supply and mix of market and affordable good quality housing, that meets our calculated needs and aspirations.
Climate and Environmental Action; Healthy Places	**5**	Over the plan period, new development supports reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in MK including transport decarbonisation, supports communities that can 'bounce-back' from environmental challenges, helps protect human and environmental health, and supports reductions in fuel poverty.
Economic and Cultural Prosperity	**6**	Designated and non-designated archaeological, built heritage, biodiversity and cultural assets are protected and enhanced over the plan period.
Climate and Environmental Action	**7**	Support creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050.
Climate and Environmental Action	**8**	Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures, and contributes to improved water quality by 2050.
Economic and Cultural Prosperity	**9**	By 2050 Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce.
Economic and Cultural Prosperity	**10**	By 2050, CMK has increased its status as a regional centre for culture, leisure, retail, and business activity; has established a diverse city centre residential community; and strengthened itself as a hub for a Mass Rapid Transport system and other local and regional transport networks.
Healthy Places; High Quality Homes and Neighbourhoods; Economic and Cultural Prosperity;	**11**	In 2050, Milton Keynes is internationally known for its continuing/consistent approach to exceptional design quality and innovation of its townscapes and landscapes, which helps improve people's health and wellbeing.

5.4 The SA Objectives, as noted, respond to the key objectives of the Policies, Plans and Programmes, the baseline information, and the sustainability issues. We have shown how the SA Objectives relate to one another, and to the MKNCP themes. In many cases, there is considerable crossover between the themes when looking at the factors at play regarding each objective. For example, with reference to SA Objective 11, design quality in our townscapes and landscapes influences health outcomes, the quality of homes and neighbourhoods, and (indirectly) economic and cultural prosperity.

Areas of conflict between the SA objectives

5.5 As part of Stage A4, Figure 4.1 'SA Objectives - Compatibility Matrix' analyses the potential conflicts between the sustainability objectives. Finding any potential conflicts at this stage is particularly important to enable the potentially damaging effects of pursuing a sustainability objective to be assessed and to enable possible ways to mitigate against or overcome these problems to be considered.

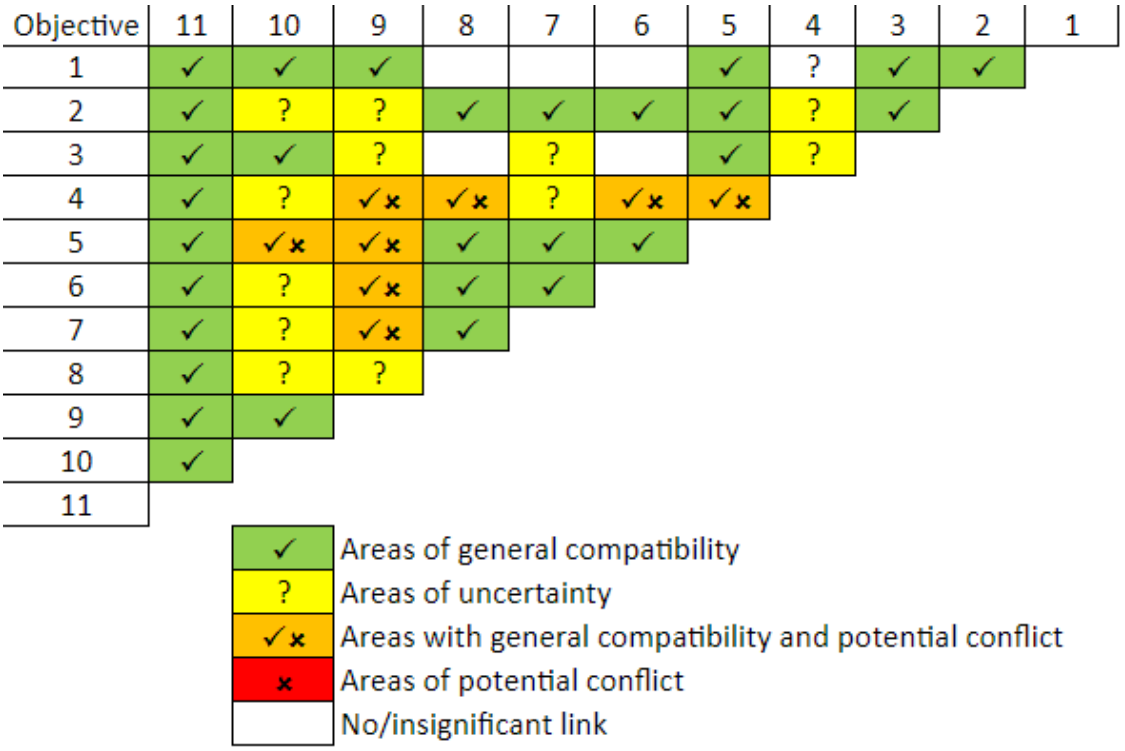

Figure 5.1: SA Objectives Compatibility Matrix.

5.6 Assessing the compatibility of the SA Objectives highlights the difficulty of achieving outcomes which don't conflict with one of the four Local Plan themes. By their very nature, and different priorities, there are bound to be areas of conflict and uncertainty between health, climate, environmental, housing, neighbourhood, economic and cultural objectives. Identifying these conflicts now will help at the policy formation stage through seeking to maximise the positive impacts of new development, and minimising or mitigating the negative impacts.

5.7 The main areas of conflict involve the development of housing and employment, and their impact on the environment and our cultural heritage. For example, there is potential conflict between housing and employment developments with water and nutrient neutrality. Regarding biodiversity considerations, in certain cases offsetting could help avoid this conflict by setting a requirement to compensate for habitats and species lost to development in one area, with the creation, enhancement, or restoration of habitat in another.

5.8 Housing and employment development both have areas of potential conflict and benefit with regards to efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its effects, such as transport decarbonisation, supporting community resilience, protecting human and environmental health, and reducing fuel poverty (see SA Objective 5). For example, additional housing and

employment development carried out in the wrong ways can increase embodied, energy, and transport-related carbon emissions. However, when carried out in the right way, housing and employment development can drive significant reductions in carbon emissions, as well as support reducing emissions outside the statutory remit of the planning legislation, such as logistics, transport, and unregulated energy use.

5.9 SA Objective 5 would also have potential areas of conflict and benefit with SA Objective 10, focusing on future development of CMK, for the same reasons as housing and employment development. A key factor that is especially relevant in CMK (but is also relevant elsewhere) is that a lack of community and health facilities and green/blue infrastructure within the area. This could make it harder for local communities to cope with severe weather events, such as flooding or heatwaves. It will be important, therefore, to consider when preparing the plan strategy and policies, how they secure the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support new development and mitigate its impacts, in CMK and surrounding areas.

5.10 New development, of all types, may make achieving a zero-waste economy in MK (see SA Objective 7) harder to achieve. New development and a higher population bring with them increased pressures on local waste management services as well as possible creation of new waste arising from construction processes. This can also increase greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Additional waste which cannot be reused/recycled/disposed of in Milton Keynes may have to be transported to other parts of the country. The MKNCP should ensure that additional growth does not prevent sustainable waste practices and establishment of a circular economy.

5.11 Housing development (SA Objective 4) and employment development and economic growth (SA Objective 9) can be seen as mutually beneficial. Additional housing in an area, and therefore a larger local population, can support local businesses to expand their services and give them greater access to the right people for jobs. Additional employment development meanwhile generates opportunities for local people and can support the viability of further housing development to meet local needs. However, increasing demand for land can lead to competition between housing and employment development interests. If most of the available land is taken up by one land use, for example housing, at the expense of others, this may act as a brake on economic prosperity. This would depend on whether other land uses, people, businesses, and organisations still have access to sufficient land to meet their needs.

5.12 There is some uncertainty over how the drive for walkable neighbourhoods and increased transport accessibility will be integrated into the need for new development. In theory these objectives are compatible and there is a lot of supportive evidence and guidance available on these matters. However, this will be dependent on the policies we choose. As the evidence base work is completed, we shall have more information to inform these decisions. Another area of uncertainty is how the future strategy for Central Milton Keynes will support objectives about climate change, walkability, housing delivery, protection and enhancement of heritage and cultural assets, and sustainable water use.

Appraising the policy options

5.13 As discussed, the SA Objectives will be the foundation of the SA process. However, to determine which policy and site selection strategy options are most appropriate, the SA process will involve further assessment of the likely effects of the MKNCP. An important part of this will be scoring the magnitude of the benefits/harms of the different options. This will enable us to rank the options in order of how well they achieve the SA Objectives, as well as identify potential opportunities to mitigate and/or minimise any harmful impacts that are highlighted.

5.14 We propose to score the strategy and policy options using the colour-coded symbols hierarchy in Table 5.2. The colour code/symbol assigned to each option will depend on the magnitude and type of the effects. The findings of the SA will involve presentation of the strategy and policy options and reasonable alternatives. Alongside these, the effects of the option on each SA objective will be identified following this colour code system, along with a concise justification for the score. This written element will also address whether effects would be long, medium or short term, and whether they are permanent or temporary. We will explore how reports for each of the future SA stages (e.g., Stage B) can be presented in interactive and engaging ways using digital technology, as well as in hard copy format.

Table 5.2: SA Colour Code Guide

++	Significant positive effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
+/-	Mixed minor effects likely
-	Negative effect likely
--/+	Significant negative and minor positive effects likely
--	Significant negative effects likely
0	Negligible effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain

5.15 The scoring process will use pre-set appraisal criteria and assumptions to ensure that we separate the significant effects from more minor effects in a robust and transparent way. Work is ongoing to create the list of criteria and assumptions. The list of considerations accompanying each SA Objective in Appendix 2 represent MKCC's initial proposals for the types of questions we want to ask of the options. The next stage shall be choosing the indicators we use to measure the extent to which the options are in line with the SA Objectives. We shall then assign each colour code rating in Table 5.2 a range of values that allow us to then assess the significance of the effects of an option.

5.16 In other words, the criteria and assumptions will set out clear parameters within which certain SA scores would be given, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity.

5.17 For example, with respect to assessing flood risk we might adopt the following approach:

a. Sites or development strategy options including sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3a or flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.
b. Sites or development strategy options including sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 2 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
c. Sites or development strategy options including sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 1 are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.

5.18 The dividing line between sustainability scores is often quite small. Where significant effects are distinguished from more minor effects this is because, using the appraisal criteria and applying professional judgement, the effect of the option on the SA objective will be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect compared with other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

5.19 In determining the significance of the effects of the options for potential inclusion in the MKNCP it will be important to bear in mind the MKNCP's relationship with the other documents in the planning system. This includes the NPPF and other national policy approaches, and regulatory requirements, as these may provide additional safeguards or mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects.

5.20 Appendix 3 provides further detail on the indicators we are considering using to measure accordance with the SA Objectives.

5.21 Your feedback on whether these are the right indicators to use, as well as what range of values to give to the colour codes in Table 5.2 for each objective are welcome.

Reasonable alternatives

5.22 The SA must appraise not only the preferred options for inclusion in the MKNCP but 'reasonable alternatives' to these options. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) notes that reasonable alternatives will consider the objectives of the MKNCP, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of national policy and the MKNCP's Ambitions and Objectives or are outside the Plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.

5.23 The objectives, policies, and site allocations to be considered for inclusion within the MKNCP are in the process of being identified and reviewed. Our reasons for selecting the strategy/policies to be included in the MKNCP will be reported at a later stage in the SA process.

Assumptions

5.24 It should be noted that it may be necessary to refine the criteria and assumptions during the SA work, for example to respond to consultation comments, or to ensure that they remain appropriate with respect to the evidence base and the alternative options being considered for inclusion in the MKNCP.

6. Consulting on the Scope

6.1 This Scoping report covers Stage A of the SA process (see Figure 1.1) by:

- Identifying and reviewing plans, programmes, policies, and sustainability objectives that will influence the plan (Task A1).
- Collecting relevant baseline information on social, environmental, and economic factors (Task A2).
- Identifying sustainability issues and trends for to be addressed through the SA and Core Strategy (Task A3).
- Developing a robust appraisal framework (Task A4).
- Providing the basis upon which the scope of the SA can be consulted (Task A5).

6.2 Consultation is an integral part of the SA process and is also known as per Figure 1.1 as Task A5. The EAPPR require us, as outlined in Paragraphs 1.12-1.14, to consult with the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Environment Agency, and Historic England), as well as a range of public consultees on the Scoping Report. Our Statement of Community Involvement[14] provides further detail on who we would consult.

6.3 We will consider all comments received during the six-week period of consultation (31 January 2023 – 14 March 2023). As noted in Figure 1.1, the SA process contains several stages during the plan-making period. The responses from the consultation will help to shape the SA report that will accompany the Regulation 18 version of the MKNCP. This report will detail the assessment of the strategic options and how the initial options were refined by the SA process.

6.4 We would like feedback on what has been included in this Scoping Report, and therefore ask consultees the following questions.

[14] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/statement-community-involvement-sci

Questions

Task A1: Review other plans, policies, programmes & SA objectives

1. Have all the plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the production of the MKNCP been considered? Or are there any others that should be added to Plan, Programme and Objective Review?

Task A2: Collecting baseline information

2. Do you have, or know of, any additional relevant baseline data that is relevant to the MKNCP?

3. Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data presented?

Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues

4. Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for the MKNCP?

5. Are you aware of any other sustainability issues, which in your opinion should be added?

Task A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework

6. Are the SA Objectives, Considerations, and Appraisal Criteria suitable?

7. Should any SA Objectives and/or Appraisal Criteria be added, or should any be removed?

8. What assumptions do you think we should consider when finalise the Appraisal Criteria and Assumptions?

How to contact us

Online:
https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-city-plan

Via email: Development.Plans@Milton-keynes.gov.uk

In writing:
Development Plans,
Civic Offices,
1 Saxon Gate East,
Central Milton Keynes,
MK9 3EJ

Appendices

Appendix 1: Policies, Plans and Programmes Review

Plan, Programme, Policies	Objectives/Requirements	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board?
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)	The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The economic, social, and environmental objectives that make up sustainable development should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans. All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that meets local development (particularly housing) needs, provides infrastructure to support growth, improves the environment, protects assets of importance, and mitigate and adapt to climate change. Strategic plan policies should address the following matters, as and when they relate to the plan area: housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, infrastructure (relating for example to transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk, provision of energy and minerals), community facilities, conservation, and enhancement of the natural, built, and historic environment.	The SA Objectives have been written to reflect the social, economic, and environmental objectives of sustainable development. The evidence base studies associated with the Local Plan preparation seek to analyse the latest data on these issues and recommend/highlight appropriate policy approaches. The policies and strategies of the new Local Plan will be tested using the SA Framework to ensure the NPPF requirements are met.
Plan:MK (2019)	The currently adopted Local Plan for the Borough, Plan:MK, sets out seventeen strategic objectives for development over the plan-period 2016-2031. The strategic objectives, in summary, are: to reflect the land use planning implications of the Strategy for 2050, delivering land for a minimum of 26,500 homes during the plan period, supporting development in the Cambridge-Oxford Arc, cooperating with neighbouring local authorities to plan well-integrated and well-designed new development on the edge of Milton Keynes, delivering a vigorous economic development strategy to support local businesses, deliver additional employment development and increase local jobs, providing land for additional local education opportunities including a new Milton Keynes University, promoting CMK as the borough's premier centre for cultural attractions, retail, leisure and office development, supporting continued regeneration of Wolverton and Bletchley, protecting and supporting development of new services and facilities in rural settlements, reduce health inequalities and deprivation and improve housing quality and access to services, facilitate delivery of a range of housing which meets the needs of local communities, managing increased travel demands	Plan:MK will be a consideration in preparation of the new Local Plan, particularly the proposed development allocations set out in the Plan which would be carried forward to the new Plan. Where there is overlap between the strategic objectives in Plan:MK, the NPPF and other documents in this review, we will seek to include policies to address these within the new Plan. These points are reflected in the SA Objectives set out in the main body of this report. However, the way in which policies in the new Plan seek to achieve these shared objectives may differ from Plan:MK, as informed by the results of the evidence base work we are currently carrying out and Government plans for National Development Management Policies.

	by facilitating increased active travel, smart mobility and public transport options and upgrading key traffic routes where appropriate, mitigating climate change and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, embodying placemaking as an overarching design objective for new development, protecting and enhancing natural, built, historic and open countryside environments, encouraging healthy lifestyles and biodiversity gain by conserving, enhancing and extending the linear parks network and key landscapes and habitats, to ensure that new development is supported by appropriate infrastructure to meet local transport, education, green infrastructure, community, sport, health, emergency service and waste needs.	
Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) Strategy for 2050 (2021)	The Strategy for 2050 is a non-statutory, strategic, document setting out our vision for what the city and wider borough will look like in 2050. It is not entirely a planning related document, as it contains objectives that are outside the influence of the planning system as it presently exists. It sets out seven big ambitions for Milton Keynes in 2050: strengthen those qualities that make Milton Keynes special, make Milton Keynes a leading green and cultural city by global standards, ensure everyone has their own decent home to rent or buy, build safe communities that support health and wellbeing, provide jobs for everyone by supporting our businesses, and attracting new ones, offer better opportunities for everyone to learn and develop their skills, and make it easier for everyone to travel on foot, by bike and with better public transport. At a high level, the strategy sets out a commitment to planning positively for growth, as well as identifying a potential spatial strategy for future growth areas and mobility hubs in and surrounding the existing city. Also mentioned are possible future ways of delivering growth, such as a local development corporation.	The Strategy's objectives have informed the preparation of the proposed SA and Local Plan Objectives and Vision, and these shall inform the initial strategic direction of the policies within the draft plan. We will then seek to ensure that the elements of the Strategy for 2050 we include within the new plan are supported by the most robust evidence that is available, a part of the process that is dependent on the outputs of the evidence base studies we are currently preparing.
MKCC Council Plan (2022)	The Council Plan details MKCC's overall strategy for delivering on its statutory duties and supporting the needs and aspirations of residents over the next four years, as well as the way the council will deliver on the plan. Our key objectives are for MK to be a thriving, progressive and sustainable city. In terms of our key priorities and outcomes, these are: to have a diverse and inclusive economy; to have decent affordable, homes in a high-quality environment; to tackle social inequalities; supporting cleaner, safer, and healthier communities; action on climate change.	The Council Plan has informed the creation of all the SA Objectives, as well as the core Local Plan Themes, objectives, and vision.

Decarbonising Transport: A Greener Better Britain (2021)	Transport is the largest contributor to UK domestic greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonising the sector will play a large role in whether we achieve our net zero commitments. The plan set out is therefore to decarbonise all forms of transport through increasing cycling and walking, zero emission buses and coaches, decarbonising our railways, cars, vans, motorcycles, and scooters. Also noted is accelerating maritime and aviation decarbonisation. Also targeted is a zero-emission freight and logistics sector, decarbonising through places, sustainable low carbon fuels, further developing use of hydrogen technologies, increasing the efficiency and choice of transport options, supporting UK research and redevelopment as a decarbonisation enabler, and unlocking green finance.	Include SA objectives on improving accessibility for communities and minimising car dependency, decarbonising out transport system, establishing CMK as a hub for a new MRT system and other local and regional transport networks. Inform evidence base studies such as the Carbon and Climate Study and MRT Study.
National Highways Road Investment Strategy 2 2020-2025 (2020)	The Road Investment Strategy sets out a long-terms strategic vision for the Strategic Road Network. It lists planned enhancement schemes Government expects to be built in the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25. It also sets out the funding that Government will make available for these projects. Relating to Milton Keynes, under construction/planned works include upgrading the M1 to smart motorway between Junction 13 (Milton Keynes South) and Junction 19 (M6 Catthorpe Interchange). There are also plans to dual the remaining single carriageway section between Cambridge and the M1 which will help improve road connectivity in the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc.	Include SA Objectives relating to improving transport accessibility, transport decarbonisation and strengthening the city as a hub for local and regional transport networks. Inform evidence base studies such as the MRT Study, Carbon and Climate Study and the Milton Keynes Multi Modal Model.
EEH Transport Strategy (2021)	The Strategy focuses on prioritising user needs and sets a target of decarbonising the transport system in the EEH area by 2040. It identifies that we need to: improve the resilience of the system to congestion and unreliability, reduce carbon emissions, address how poor connectivity perpetuates inequality, support rural communities and businesses, reduce reliance on private car travel, invest in digital infrastructure, use large public transport schemes such as East West Rail as catalysts for change, invest in active travel, ensure the needs of freight and logistics are met while lowering their environmental impact.	Include SA objectives on walkable neighbourhoods, improving accessibility for communities and minimising car dependency, establishing CMK as a hub for a new MRT system and other local and regional transport networks. Inform evidence base studies such as the Carbon and Climate Study and MRT Study.

EEH Regional Bus Strategy (2022)	The Strategy identifies six aims and ambitions that will remove barriers to accessing regional opportunities, promoting economic growth and a more sustainable transport system for all residents. These include more frequent and reliable services, improvements to planning and integration with other modes, improvements to fares and ticketing, higher specification buses, decarbonisation, and improvements to passenger engagement.	Include SA objectives on walkable neighbourhoods, improving accessibility for communities and minimising car dependency, establishing CMK as a hub for a new MRT system and other local and regional transport networks. Inform evidence base studies such as the Carbon and Climate Study and MRT Study.
EEH Active Travel Strategy: The Ambition (2022)	The document describes a high-level ambition for active travel in England's Economic Heartland and is the first phase in developing a full active travel strategy for the region. This first phase sets out the active travel ambition for the Heartland based on a review of key European, national, regional, and local policies and ambitions and the views of active travel officers across the region. It identifies several challenges which need addressing, including the need to decarbonise transport, rising physical inactivity and obesity levels, areas of rural, social and economic inequalities with limited connectivity, high levels of car use leading to road congestion and poor air quality, and increased travel demand.	Include SA objectives on walkable neighbourhoods, improving accessibility for communities and minimising car dependency. Inform evidence base studies such as the Carbon and Climate Study and CMK Growth Study. There also exist opportunities to link policies and strategics in the MKNCP to the upcoming LTP5.
MKCC Mobility Strategy (2018)	In the context of significant growth in MK in future, the strategy is the reference point for how the city wishes to maintain, improve, and develop its transport system to 2036. It seeks to support large transport schemes such as East West Rail where they occur. Our ambitions are stabilisation of journey times, promoting smart shared sustainable mobility, an integrated and accessible public transport system, promoting a 'first last mile' for future technologies such as autonomous vehicles and sustainable connectivity, ensuring transport infrastructure is configured to support future growth. Its overarching objectives for the transport system are supporting growth and providing mobility for all, providing an effective network, maximising travel choices, and protecting transport users and the environment.	Include SA objectives on improving accessibility for communities and minimising car dependency, establishing CMK as a hub for a new MRT system and other local and regional transport networks. Inform evidence base studies such as the Carbon and Climate Study and MRT Study.
Community Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy (2020)	Our vision for regeneration and estate renewal is to build stronger communities, in which every resident of Milton Keynes can live safely and securely in the greenest and most sustainable city in the world. Community involvement in delivery of regeneration and renewal is important. The following strategic priorities are identified: increasing the supply and quality of council homes, improving the quality of the local environment with better green and open spaces alongside good infrastructure and community facilities, reducing our carbon footprint and working towards our 2030 carbon neutral and 2050 carbon negative targets, promoting a high	Include SA objectives on walkable neighbourhoods, providing housing to meet local needs and aspirations, improving access to leisure, health, and community facilities, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

	quality of life for all in connected and healthy neighbourhoods, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, tackling crime and antisocial behaviour to ensure people feel safe and secure, enabling people to maximise economic opportunity in Milton Keynes through targeted support for training, employment and enterprise.	
Milton Keynes Community Strategy 2004-2034	The strategy sets out the values that will guide the growth of the borough. It sets out the aim of creating desirable, fun, affordable, safe, and accessible places within Milton Keynes. There are four key action areas: reinventing our city, places and spaces- delivering high quality environments for the people of our city and neighbourhoods, delivering better services- promoting social inclusion and delivering excellent services for the people of our area that are convenient and easy to access, facilitating participative communities- supporting people and organisations to be active and enterprising in civic life, managing change together- implementing and monitoring our community strategy so that it makes a tangible improvement to people's lives.	Include SA objectives on walkable neighbourhoods, providing housing to meet local needs and aspirations, improving access to leisure, health, and community facilities, and creating communities that can bounce back from climate change related environmental and economic impacts, maintaining exceptional design quality which improves health and wellbeing.
Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)	This Act (as amended) introduced a statutory target of reducing CO2 emissions to be 100% below 1990 levels by 2050.	Inclusion of an SA objective to support mitigation of and adaption to climate change.
MKCC Sustainability Strategy Action Plan (2021)	MKCC has a wide range of possible actions it can use to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Some of these do not relate to, or indirectly relate to, matters within the remit of the planning system. The matters in the Action Plan with direct relevance to Planning include: green roofs on commercial development, securing biodiversity net gain or contributions to MKCC where this is not possible, enhancing the natural environment where possible, reducing water consumption, support local renewable and decentralised energy generation, create new parking policy to account for changing customer use, new technology and future trends, reduce car use and promote bus, cycling and other more efficient / sustainable modes of transport, support reduction of freight carbon emissions, support a Mass Rapid Transit system, support use of car clubs, encourage Modern Methods of Construction, reduce waste from construction, support reductions in fuel poverty,	Inclusion of an SA objective to support reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in MK including transport decarbonisation, supports communities that can 'bounce-back' from environmental challenges, helps protect human and environmental health, and supports reductions in fuel poverty, as well as creating a zero-waste economy and increasing water use efficiency and quality.
Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)	The Strategy sets out the government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. In summary, its key objectives are: decarbonising electricity provision by 2035, increasing use of hydrogen and low carbon biofuels in sectors where electrification is not possible/difficult, supporting industry in its transition to electrification/low carbon/hydrogen	Inclusion of an SA objective to support reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in MK including transport decarbonisation, supports communities that can 'bounce-back' from environmental challenges, helps protect human and environmental health, and supports reductions in fuel poverty.

	options, improving energy efficiency in all homes and buildings, decarbonising the transport system, reducing GHG emissions by improving countryside biodiversity, increase tree planting and protecting peatlands, establish a circular economy, improve resource efficiency, phase out fluorinated gases in line with international commitments, invest in greenhouse gas removal technologies, increase research and development into sustainable technologies and establish the green finance sector.	
25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	The Plan sets out the policies the Government shall put in place to improve the environment. These can be split into several broad areas: using and managing land sustainably, recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes, connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing, increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste, securing clean, productive, and biologically diverse seas and oceans, protecting, and improving the global environment.	Inclusion of SA objectives about good quality green and blue infrastructure, protecting environmental health, protecting, and enhancing designated and non-designated biodiversity assets, improving water quality, and having a consistent approach to exceptional design quality and innovation of its townscapes and landscapes, which helps improve people's health and wellbeing.
Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018)	Natural capital is one of our most valuable assets. The Strategy sets out Government's approach to ensuring we use our natural capital sustainably and avoid use of it where possible by establishing a circular economy. The key milestones in the strategy are double resource productivity by 2050, eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050, eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan, work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030, work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable, or compostable by 2025.	Inclusion of SA objectives focused on supporting creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050 and Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	The planning system has a role to play in delivering the country's waste ambitions by: driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, ensuring waste management is considered alongside other planning considerations, recognising the role of waste management in sustainable communities, enabling waste to be disposed of/recycled as close to the point of creation as possible, ensuring waste management does not harm human and environmental health, ensuring the design and layout of new development enables high quality and safe waste storage and collection.	Inclusion of SA objectives focused on supporting creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050 and Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures.
MKCC Waste Development Plan Document 2007-2024 (2008)	The document sets out how the waste management requirements for Milton Keynes will be achieved. this includes requirements for municipal, industrial, commercial, construction, and demolition waste	Inclusion of SA objectives focused on supporting creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050 and Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures.

MKCC Minerals Plan (2017)	The plan identifies that a sufficient supply of minerals supports the delivery of the growth strategy in Milton Keynes. It contains ten strategic objectives for how to do this: ensuring a sufficient supply of aggregates to facilitate growth and infrastructure delivery, provide guidance on the links between minerals development and growth and identify a spatial approach to minerals development and appropriate minerals sites, reinforce local identify by sourcing local building stone, maximise efficient recovery and use of minerals reserves, secondary and recycled materials, safeguarding minerals development, reserves and ancillary development from other forms of development, ensuring that minerals development does not have an adverse impact on the natural and historic environment as well as human health, ensure minerals development and related transport movements do not adversely affect human health and residential amenity, support provision of green infrastructure and recreational opportunities to promote healthy communities and quality of life in MK, ensure the progressive restoration of minerals sites after use to benefit the environment and local communities and reflect local landscapes and circumstances, support MK's transition to a low carbon economy by promoting sustainable development principles, alternative modes of transport and addressing flood risk.	There is no SA objective dedicated solely to minerals development. Instead, reference has been made in the in-depth considerations for Objectives 7 and 9 about how our economy and zero waste approach supports sustainable use and development of minerals.
MKCC Waste Strategy 2017-2022	The strategy sets out MKCC's policies relating to waste collection, waste disposal, provision of civic amenity sites and street cleaning services. The strategy vision is to deliver a high-quality waste service that provides value for money and costs substantially less than it did in 2016. In terms of objectives, the strategy seeks to reduce the cost of waste services, meet statutory duties for waste services, minimise negative impacts on customer satisfaction, reduce the carbon impact of waste services and contribute to making the city a prosperous and attractive business opportunity.	Inclusion of SA Objectives supporting creation of a zero-waste economy, helping to protect human and environmental health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce.
MKCC Economic Development Strategy 2017-2027 (2017)	The strategy will support further economic development of MK by: building on and developing the economic, housing, physical and digital infrastructure required to maintain a high degree of connectivity, secure the benefits of partnerships to attract inward investment, businesses, people and visitors to MK, support existing businesses to grow and prosper, take advantage of emerging trends that are shaping the economy, ensuring residents have access to	Inclusion of SA objectives focused on ensuring Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce, protection and enhancement of cultural assets, supporting communities that can bounce back from environmental challenges and focusing on future development of CMK as a regional centre for culture, leisure, retail, and business activity; has established a diverse city centre

	high quality educational and skills development opportunities, support creation of the Milton Keynes University, revitalise the role of CMK as a city centre at the heart of the Ox-Cam Arc and as a centre for retail, leisure, culture, housing and higher education, as well as businesses, particularly in knowledge intensive sectors, sustaining Milton Keynes as an internationally recognised centre of prosperity, economic innovation and cultural creativity in a high-quality green and built environment.	residential community; and strengthened itself as a hub for a Mass Rapid Transport system and other local and regional transport networks.
Build Back Better: our plan for growth (2021)	The plan aims to support better economic growth by focusing on 'three core pillars of growth': infrastructure, skills, and innovation. The more detailed objectives relating to each pillar are as below. Infrastructure: investment in broadband, roads, rail, and cities, focus investment in local areas, help achieve net zero through a 'Green Industrial Revolution', invest in local authority and private infrastructure projects. Skills: Support productivity growth through high-quality skills and training, enable lifelong learning and more apprenticeship opportunities. Innovation: support and incentivise the development of the creative ideas and technologies that will shape the UK's future high-growth, sustainable and secure economy, support access to finance to help unleash innovation in high-growth companies, continued government support for start-ups and scale ups, attract the brightest and best people and drive competitiveness, supporting small and medium enterprises.	Inclusion of SA objectives focused on ensuring Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce, protection and enhancement of cultural assets, supporting communities that can bounce back from environmental challenges and focusing on future development of CMK as a regional centre for culture, leisure, retail, and business activity; has established a diverse city centre residential community; and strengthened itself as a hub for a Mass Rapid Transport system and other local and regional transport networks.
MKCC Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023 (2021)	The Plan updates MKCC's initial Covid19 Economic Recovery Action Plan, published in September 2020. This first plan set out urgent activity to support businesses and help people into work, including dedicated action to support young people and women, as well as longer-term activity to build confidence and secure investment in the city and drive green economic growth and the innovation economy. The new plan builds on previous achievements to: support those most at risk of being out of work, such as women and young people, urgently review the Council's Neighbourhood Employment Programme to transform its ability to support people back into work, assisting people with training and reskilling, with a focus on groups that find themselves at most disadvantage including women, whilst building council housing, promote local skills through apprenticeships and create local jobs by using local supply chains, Helping businesses to prepare and adapt under the new requirements of social distancing, increasing resilience for future changes, new ways of working, and supporting green transformation,	This is a wide-ranging Plan which relates to many of the Objectives in the SA Framework such as Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11. Evidence base studies such as the HEDNA, CMK Growth Study, Carbon and Climate Study, MRT Study, Retail and Leisure Study

	supporting MK's high streets and the safe reopening of city and town centres, responding to changes to the retail and leisure sectors, ensuring local businesses can access existing support and the new programmes that will be developed, helping business prepare for the end of the transition period for leaving the EU trade zone, supporting new start-ups, as well as existing businesses, and strengthening local supply chain activity, creating a business environment for innovation and success, leading the council's effort to grow the Green Economy and encourage green business practices, including remote working, promote walking and cycling, including renewing and extending the Redways, to provide viable alternatives to the car for work and leisure journeys, securing funding for city scale investment and growth projects, integrating carbon reduction and green objectives into place-based economic initiatives, inward investment and place marketing, including opportunities linked to SEMLEP and the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, bringing forward significant place shaping schemes including MKC's Renaissance CMK project, the Towns Deal focus in Bletchley, and a Local Housing Company, promoting neighbourhood economies in which local shops, services and facilities can be easily accessed by those working and learning at home, transforming MK's transport system, to embed MKC's commitment to becoming the greenest and most sustainable city and provide viable alternatives to the car.	

Appendix 2: Baseline Information

Population

A2.1 Data from the 2021 Census shows that Milton Keynes is one of the fastest growing local authorities in England. Between 2011 and 2021, the Milton Keynes population increased by 15.3% from 248,800 to 287,000. Nearby areas like Bedford and Central Bedfordshire have seen their populations increase by around 17.7% and 15.7%, respectively, while others such as North Northamptonshire saw an increase of 13.5% and Buckinghamshire saw smaller growth (9.5%). The percentage increase in England over the same period was 6.6%[15].

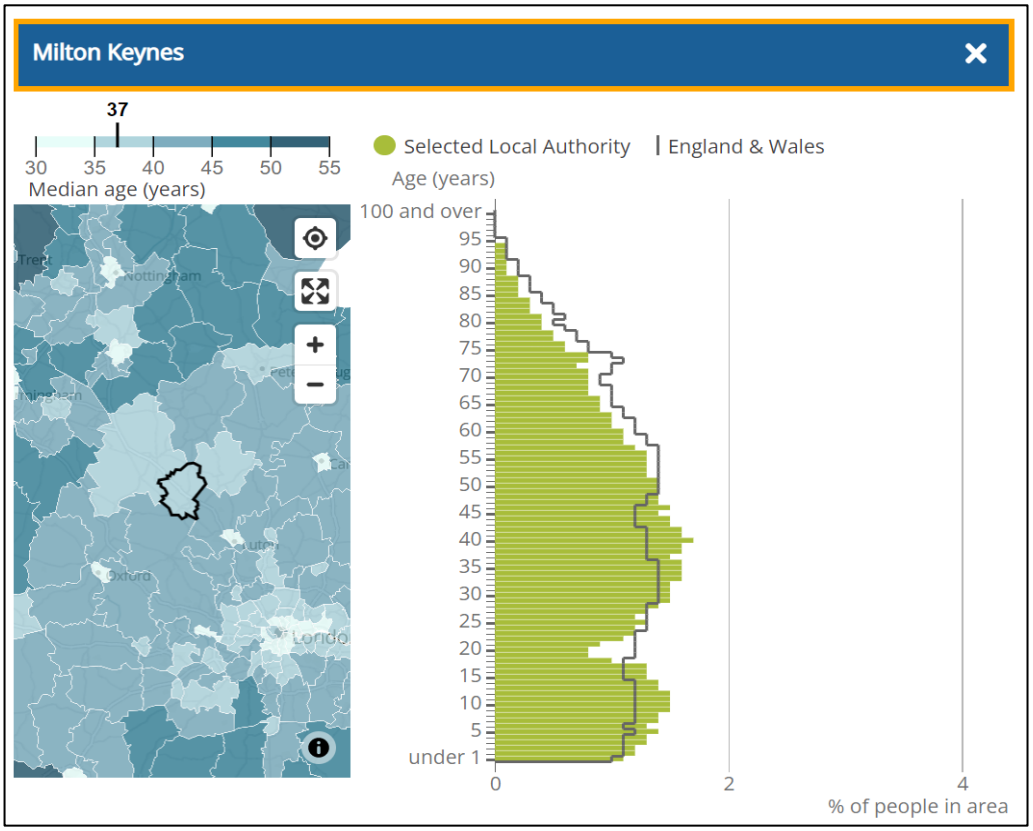

Figure A2.1: Age structure of the population, 2021, Milton Keynes compared with England and Wales average[16].

A2.2 At the time of the 2021 Census, the median age in Milton Keynes was 37 years. As the age profile in Figure A2.1 shows, the area has a greater proportion of children aged 0-17 and adults aged 29-48, and a smaller proportion of university-age young adults and adults aged 52 and over, when compared to the overall England & Wales age structure. This suggests the area is more popular with young families. Bedford Borough, Buckinghamshire, Central Bedfordshire, North Northamptonshire, and West Northamptonshire all similarly have a lower proportion of young adults aged 18-29 than the national average. This trend is more pronounced in Buckinghamshire where the proportion of those aged 29–36 is also less than the national average. The proportion of the population over 60 in Buckinghamshire is slightly more than the

[15] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E06000042/

[16] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021unroundeddata

national average, whereas in the other authority areas (excluding Milton Keynes) it is roughly equal to the national average.

A2.3 Recent data from the 2021 Census shows that there has been an increase of 43.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 11.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 12.3% in children aged under 15 years[17]. Figure A2.2 shows the usual resident population in Milton Keynes by sex and five-year age group at the time of the 2021 Census. Between the ages of 0 and 24, the population was predominantly male however, above the age of 25 years the population is predominantly female.

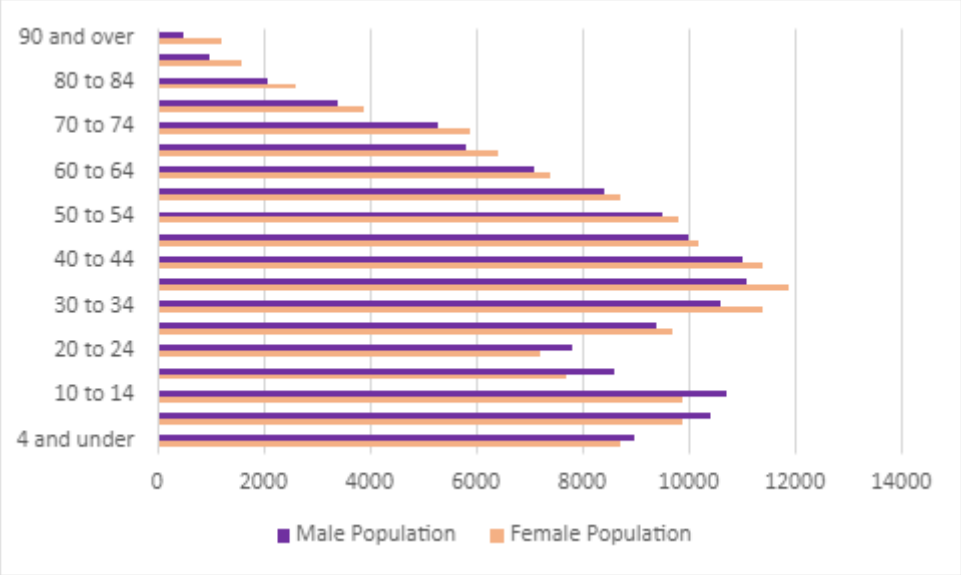

Figure A2.2: 2021 Census data on usual resident population in Milton Keynes by sex and five-year age group. Source: ONS[18].

A2.4 The latest available data on population projections dates from 2018 and was produced by the ONS[19]. However, it is evident that the methodology for this dataset underestimated population growth in Milton Keynes. It forecast that the Milton Keynes population in 2043 would be 284,076, whereas the Census 2021 (unrounded estimates) recorded the 2021 population as 287,000. We shall have better estimates of likely population growth when our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) is completed in early 2023.

A2.5 As Figures A2.3 and A2.4 show, the majority (just over 85%) of the population in Milton Keynes is British, with the remainder being made up of people of different nationalities. Within this narrower demographic of people in Milton Keynes with nationalities other than British, the majority are from European Union countries, with the next largest minorities being people with South Asian and Sub-Saharan African nationalities. Compared with our previous reporting in the 2020-21 Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), there has been a small decline in the number of people with nationalities other than British and an increase in the British population. When

[17] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E06000042/
[18] https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales
[19] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2018based

looked at further via figure A2.4, this shows a decline in EU migration and small increase of North American migration.

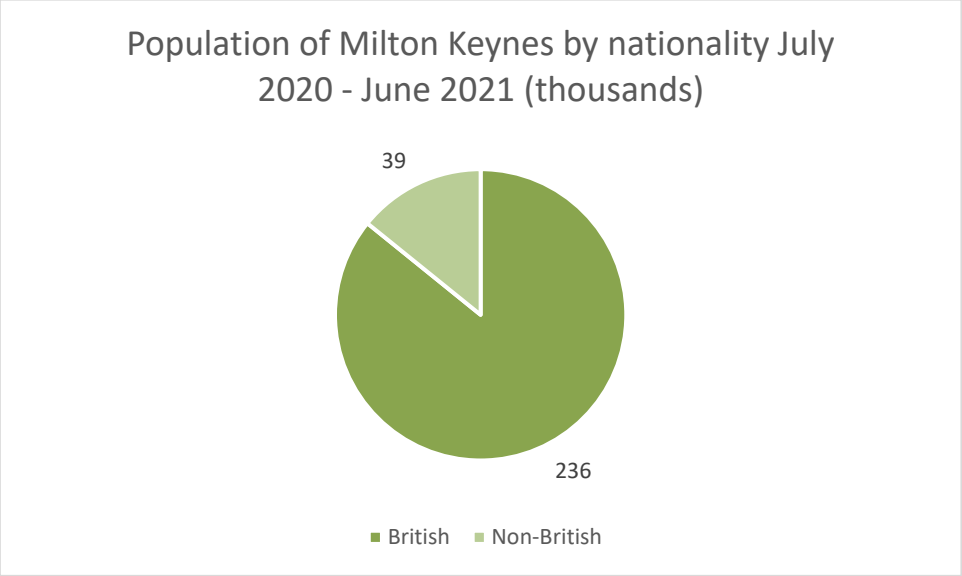

Figure A2.3: Population of Milton Keynes by nationality (British or Non-British (July 2020 to June 2021). Source: ONS[20].

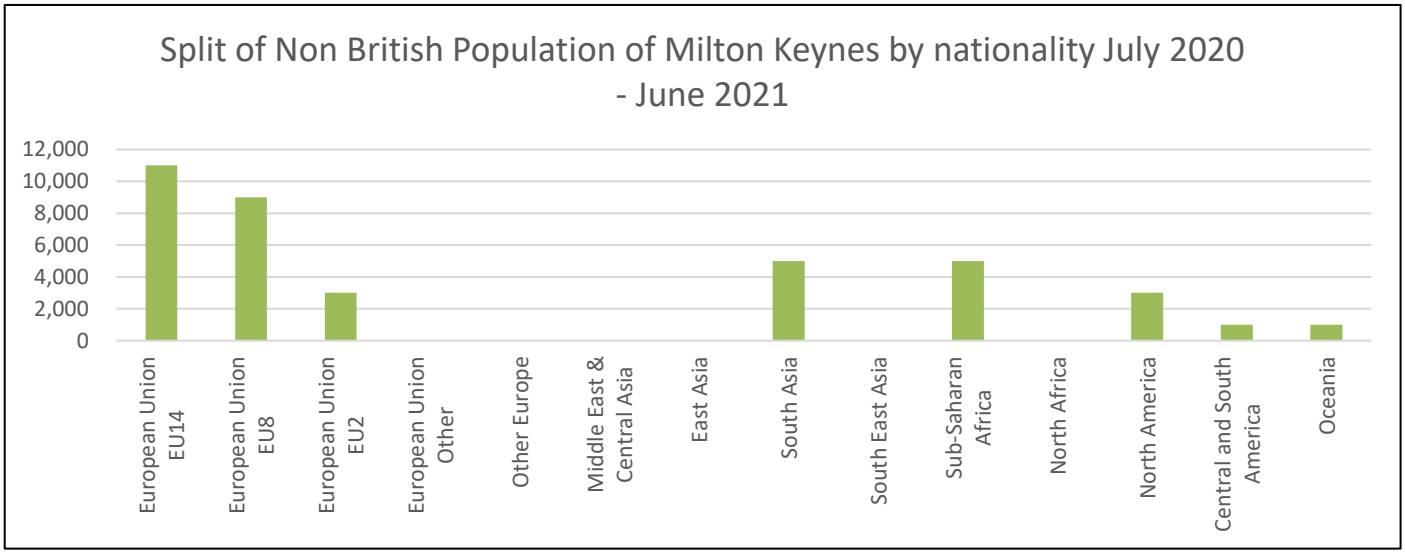

Figure A2.4: Split of Non-British Population of Milton Keynes by nationality July 2020 – June 2021. Source: ONS[21]. Note: Categories shown as '0' in the chart have been marked either as 'no contact' or as 'confidential' by ONS. No contact means that ONS were unable to establish contact with people from these demographics in the Borough.

A2.6 As reported in our 2020-2021 AMR, in terms of religious affiliation, the latest ONS dataset available is from 2019[22] and uses data from the annual population survey, mid-year estimates and the 2011 Census to calculate 2016 population estimates. These are shown in Table A2.1. The data shows that over half of the population in Milton Keynes is Christian, with the next

20 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality

21 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality

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

largest proportion being 'None + not stated'. Other religious groups such as Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others make up the rest of the population The ONS hasn't published any earlier statistics and earlier versions of our AMR don't report on religion. As such comparisons of this dataset with other datasets isn't possible. However, this data provides a baseline for assessment over the MKNCP period.

Table A2.1: Population in Milton Keynes by religious groups. Source: ONS.

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

A2.7 Table A2.2 shows the most recent 2021 Census data on the number and proportion of people from different ethnic groups in Milton Keynes. Also, Milton Keynes has a higher proportion of people from different ethnic groups than our neighbouring authority areas. As Table A2.2 shows, the largest ethnic group in Milton Keynes includes those who are White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, and White Irish. The next largest ethnic groups in the area are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (12.42%), and White Other (8.51%).

Table A2.2: Number of people of different ethnicities in Milton Keynes using Census 2021 data.

Ethnic Group	**Number of People**	**Percentage of Total**
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	35645	12.42%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	27851	9.7%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	11725	4.08%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	156	0.05%
White Roma	578	0.2%
White Other	24430	8.51%
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, Irish	180950	63.04%
Other ethnic group Arab	1349	0.47%
Other ethnic group: any other ethnic group	4376	1.52%

A2.8 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England, with 1 being the most deprived and 10 being the least deprived. The most recent release of IMD statistics from Government was in 2019[23]. Table A2.3 notes how many areas within Milton Keynes fell into each IMD category at that time and Figure A2.5 shows the spatial distribution of IMD levels in the city. Table A2.3 shows that most of the Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the MKCC area had an IMD between 6 and 10 (less deprived). However, 36.84% of LSOAs had an IMD between 1 and 5, the most deprived areas.

Table A2.3: Number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes with different IMD values[24].

IMD value	No. of LSOAs in MK
1	8
2	10
3	10
4	15
5	13
6	17
7	22
8	29
9	18
10	10

A2.9 As Figure A2.5 shows, the more deprived areas are near/in the older towns of Bletchley and Wolverton which pre-date the New Town construction, as well as the older estates within the New Town itself. Less deprived areas include the newer estates around the edge of the city and more rural parts of the MKCC area. These statistics may have changed since 2019; further monitoring throughout the MKNCP period will report on the next IMD release from Government. On the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Interactive Dashboard, where 1 represents the most deprived area, Milton Keynes ranks 172 out of 317 for its overall IMD. In comparison, Bedford Borough ranks 156, Central Bedfordshire ranks 264, Aylesbury Vale ranks 277, and South Northamptonshire ranks 312. Note, the Dashboard was made before the recent merging of the West and North Northamptonshire, and Buckinghamshire authorities.

[23] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019
[24] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

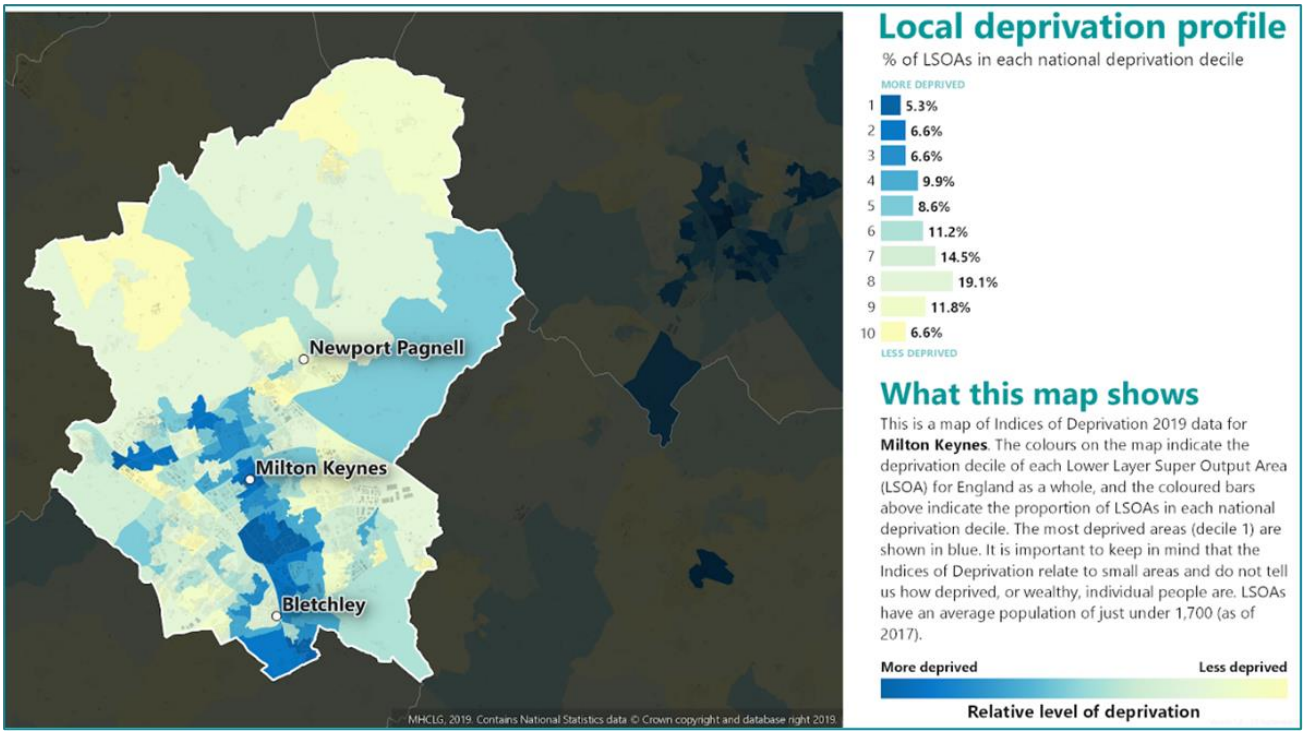

Figure A2.5: Local deprivation spatial distribution in Milton Keynes. Source: University of Sheffield[25].

Crime

A2.10 Thames Valley Police publishes annual data on a wide range of crimes. Only data on crimes that planning can influence is included here in the interest of proportionality. The full Thames Valley Police crime records database is available online[26]. Table A2.4 highlights that, in the 2021/2022 monitoring period overall crime in Milton Keynes that is more directly influenced by Planning has decreased by 30%, relative to when Plan:MK was adopted. The data shows an increase between the 2020-2021 monitoring period and the latest timeframe. However, due to the pandemic and associated lockdowns, the 2020-2021 period is considered an anomaly.

Table A2.4: Statistics for crimes directly influenced by Planning system outcomes, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & April 2021 – March 2022. Source: Thames Valley Police.

Offence	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	% Change
Robbery of Business Property	42	13	5	8	-425%
Robbery of Personal Property	210	256	167	149	-41%

[25] https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/research/projects/english-indices-deprivation-2019#maps
[26] https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items/

Residential Burglary - Dwelling	514	397	281	315	-63%
Residential Burglary – Sheds / Garages	241	220	298	223	-8%
Business & Community Burglary	534	390	177	219	-144%
Theft of Vehicle	495	291	264	370	-34%
Theft from Vehicle	2,154	931	842	614	-251%
Vehicle Interference	345	117	250	143	-141%
Theft from the Person	300	437	216	375	20%
Bicycle Theft	616	777	716	596	-3%
Arson and Criminal Damage	2,618	1,817	1,424	1,567	-67%
Public Order Offences	1,231	931	1,325	2,590	52%
Overall Reported Crime Average	**775**	**548**	**497**	**597**	**-30%**

A2.11 However, more generally, the Crime Summary for Milton Keynes 2021/2022[27] noted 10,670 instances of Violence against the Person crimes. This represented a 21.5% increase relative to the 2020/2021 period. Sexual offences (including rape and non-rape sexual offences) also increased 32.9% from 718 to 954. Recorded Hate Crime and Incidents (including racial, religious, homophobic, transphobic and disability incidents) also increased 29.3% from 873 to 1,129 across the same period. Domestic recorded crimes and non-crime occurrences increased and decreased 9.7% and -4.9% respectively between 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Fear of crime in public spaces and whether spaces might encourage violence against all people, particularly women and children, are considerations when preparing planning policies and taking decisions.

A2.12 For comparison purposes, Thames Valley Police reported 1,652 crimes in the Aylesbury Vale area between October 2021 and September 2022[28]. In Milton Keynes over the same period, there were 4,759.

[27] https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/thames-valley-police/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/performance-figures/milton-keynes/summary-of-notifiable-offences-in-milton-keynes-april-2021-to-march-2022.pdf

[28] https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/tvp/aylesbury-vale/aylesbury-town-centre/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area

Health

A2.13 Figure A2.6 summarises life expectancy, under 75 mortality rate and suicide rates in Milton Keynes between 2018-2020. Compared with data for the 2017-2019 period summarised in our 2020-2021 AMR, life expectancy decreased by 0.2 years for both men and women. Life expectancy in Milton Keynes is generally lower than in the Southeast and England as a whole, although women in Milton Keynes tend to live slightly longer than nationally (on average). Within Milton Keynes, the inequality in life expectancy at birth is 8.4 years for males and 7.2 years for women[29]. The Under 75 mortality rate from all causes is higher than the Southeast average, however it is still below the national average. The suicide rate in Milton Keynes is lower than the average, both in the Southeast and nationally.

Indicator	Period	Milt Keynes			Region England	England		England	
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	-	79.3	80.6	79.4	74.1		84.7
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 1 year range)	2020	–	-	78.5	80.1	78.7	73.6		83.3
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	-	83.2	84.1	83.1	79.0		87.9
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 1 year range)	2020	–	-	83.0	83.7	82.6	78.0		87.8
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	2,102	330.9	293.9	336.5	570.7		221.0
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (1 year range)	2020	→	726	336.6	308.0	358.5	622.8		205.8
Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (3 year range)	2017 - 19	–	408	67.0	57.1	70.4	121.6		43.6
Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (1 year range)	2020	→	130	61.1	61.5	73.8	137.1		36.1
Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (3 year range)	2017 - 19	–	828	135.1	121.6	129.2	182.4		87.4
Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (1 year range)	2020	↓	227	107.0	116.2	125.1	187.1		69.3
Suicide rate	2018 - 20	–	67	9.4	10.1	10.4	18.8		5.0

Figure A2.6: Milton Keynes Local Authority Health Profile. Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities[30].

A2.14 Life expectancy in Bedford between 2018-2020 was very similar to Milton Keynes (79.2 years for men and 83.2 years for women in the 3-year range). Buckinghamshire had better life expectancy during the same period (80.6 years for men and 84.1 years for women)[31].

[29] https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938133217/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/402/are/E06000042/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1

[30] https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132696/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000042/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1

[31] https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles

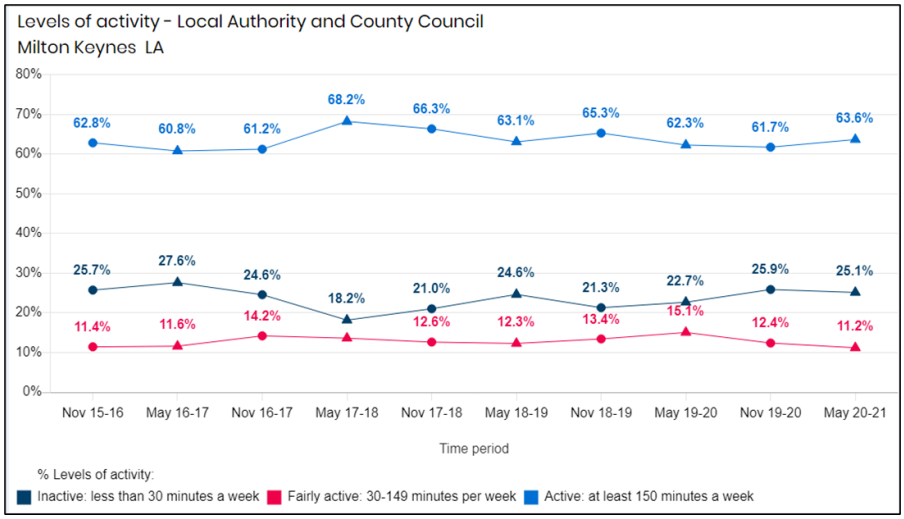

Figure A2.7: Activity levels of adults (ages 16+) in Milton Keynes between November 2015 and May 2021. Source: Sport England Active Lives dataset.

A2.15 The Active Lives dataset from Sport England shows that activity levels in Milton Keynes have been relatively consistent over the past several years as shown in Figure A2.7. Recent data shows that the proportion of "active" adults has increased while the number of "inactive" and "fairly active" adults has decreased. For children and young people, activity levels decreased in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, with a greater proportion of those surveyed being "inactive"[32]. The rise in inactivity levels (less than 30 minutes a day for school aged children) compared to the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods is likely due to lockdown measures in response to COVID-19. Further monitoring during the MKNCP period will highlight whether this trend reverses. Figure A2.8 shows adult (age 16+) levels of activity in the four neighbouring authority areas between November 2020 and November 2021, plus those of Milton Keynes for comparison.

[32] https://activelives.sportengland.org/

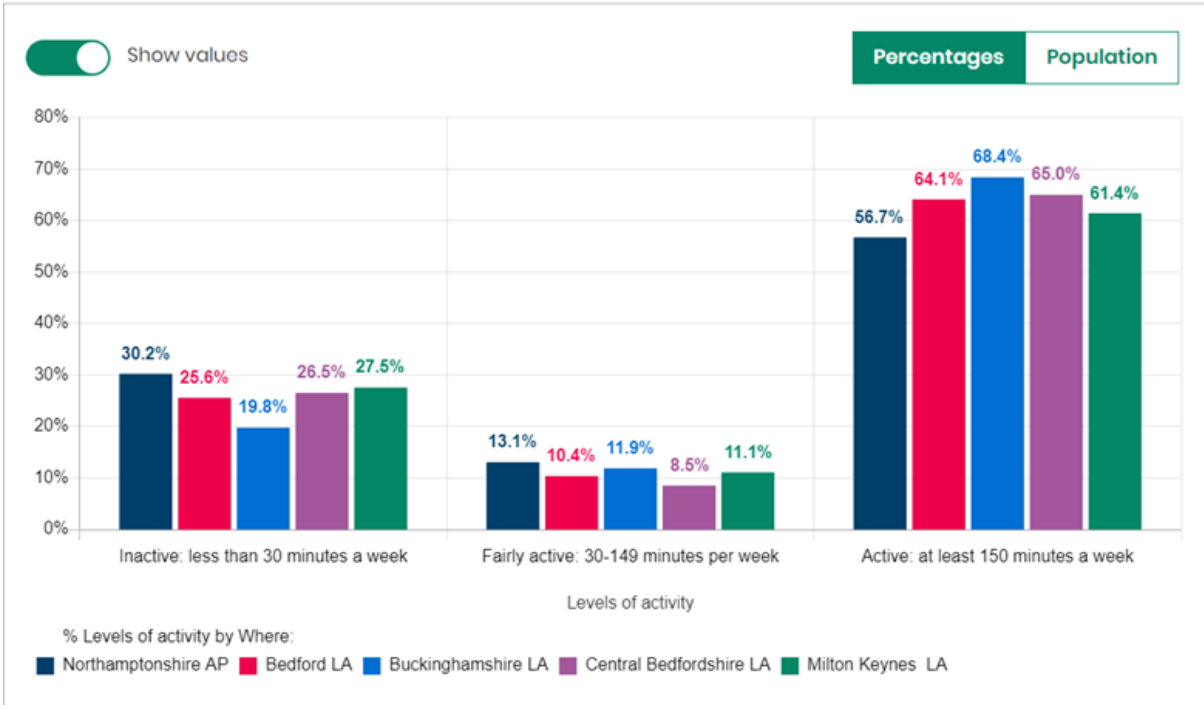

Figure A2.8: Levels of activity (% of population) in adults Nov 2020-2021 in Milton Keynes and neighbouring authority areas.

A2.16 Common mental disorders (CMD) include different types of depression and anxiety. These include generalised anxiety disorder, depressive episodes, phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder, and panic disorder. As Figure A2.9 shows, the prevalence of CMD in Milton Keynes in 2017 was 15.3% among over 16s, and 9.2% among over 65s. This is neither the best nor the worst when compared with nearby authorities. However, when compared with other authorities with similar deprivation (IMD) levels, the prevalence of CMD in Milton Keynes is below average. In addition, the Dementia diagnosis rate for people aged 65 and over in Milton Keynes in 2022 is 66.2% (1,726 people), compared with an average diagnosis rate of 60% in England.

Area	Prevalence in population aged 16 & over (2017)			Prevalence in population aged 65 & over (2017)		
	Count	%	Compared against IMD	Count	%	Compared against IMD
Bedford Borough	21,391	15.9%		2,850	9.6%	
Central Bedfordshire	29,775	13.2%		4,078	8.2%	
Luton	31,401	19.3%		3,005	11.4%	
Milton Keynes	31,562	15.3%		3,315	9.2%	
England	7,609,582	16.9%		1,027,792	10.2%	

Figure A2.9: Estimated prevalence of CMD. Data source: Public Health England.

Housing and Regeneration

A2.17 In September 2021 the Milton Keynes Brownfield Register recorded 39.8 hectares of brownfield land in the MKCC area. For comparison, the SA Scoping Report for Plan:MK in 2014 recorded 140 hectares of brownfield land. This indicates a possible reduction of available land supply in Milton Keynes. However, this data does not account for additional land that may have been submitted in our recent Call for Sites. Further monitoring during the MKNCP period will highlight the extent of this issue; if future data does support this potential trend, the Local Plan process should identify solutions.

A2.18 In the 31 October 2021 – 30 October 2022 monitoring period there were 74 entrants to MKCC's Self Build Register, including 1 group entrant. In comparison, provision of self-build plots was relatively constrained, with 35 plots permitted on developments that are self or custom-build projects and 18 single dwellings being permitted in the same period. Notwithstanding this, we are expecting provision of self-build plots to increase in future years as build out progresses of large sites at Milton Keynes East, South East Milton Keynes, and Campbell Park North Side[33].

A2.19 2021 Census estimates put the overall number of households with at least 1 usual resident in Milton Keynes at 113,102[34]. This contrasts with MKCC figures for the overall stock of dwellings of 121,197 as of 1 October 2022. While some time has passed between the dates these figures were recorded, it is likely that the difference between these data is due to a mix of some units being unoccupied during the Census and some dwellings being second homes. The HEDNA will provide further detail on overcrowding, household composition and the number of households living in Houses in Multiple Occupation. We will include updates on these datasets in the next SA report after the HEDNA is completed.

A2.20 A summary of the accumulated data relating to C3 use residential dwellings, for 2021/22 is presented below in Table A2.5. This covers both market sale and affordable dwellings combined. As shown, we delivered more than our annual housing requirement of 1,767 dwellings, as set out in Plan:MK, by approximately 13%. This is the fourth year running that we have met and exceeded our housing requirement, something that was not achieved during the Core Strategy (2013) period. This trend looks set to continue in the 2022-2023 monitoring period. As of 1 October 2022 (at the end of Q2), there have been 1,536 housing completions which equals 86% of the annual housing requirement (1,767). In terms of the 2021 Housing Delivery Test results, Milton Keynes scored 128%, Buckinghamshire scored 107%, Central Bedfordshire 137%, Bedford Borough 144%, and South Northamptonshire scored 162%[35].

Table A2.5: 2021/22 Annual Monitoring Status. Source: MKCC.

[33] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/custom-and-self-build-monitoring

[34] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/demographyandmigrationdatacontent/2022-11-02#demography-unrounded-population-estimates

[35] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-delivery-test-2021-measurement

Total No. of Completions	2,005
Total No. of Losses	2
Total Net Completions	2,003
Total No. of Starts	2,552
Completions achieved against annual requirement (1,767 dwellings)	113.4%
Total No. of Units Under Construction as at 1 April 2022	3,350

A2.21 Since the start of the Plan:MK plan period, affordable housing completions has typically not met the Plan:MK target affordable housing target of 31%. However, this is due to a backlog of sites being delivered which were granted permission with lower levels of affordable housing prior to adoption of Plan:MK. Recent data, see Table A2.6, indicates the proportion of homes being delivered as affordable is increasing. With a further 639 affordable units under construction as of 1 April 2022, this bodes well for a further increase in provision in 2022/23. For further information about our housing monitoring, visit our Planning Monitoring webpages (link in footnote)[36].

Table A2.6: Affordable Housing Provision 2016-2022. Source: MKCC.

Year	**No. of Affordable Units delivered**	**No. affordable units as a % of Total Housing Completions**
2016/17	249	20.1%
2017/18	362	23.7%
2018/19	387	21.7%
2019/20	407	19.5%
2020/21	410	20%
2021/22	619	30.8%

A2.22 In terms of our latest five-year housing land supply data, our most recent assessment as of October 2022 is that we can currently demonstrate that deliverable supply is in place for 6.10 years' worth of deliverable housing land. The report for this calculation, as well as past trends, is available on our website[37]. As of September 2022, Central Bedfordshire records a land supply of 5.16 years. For the 2021/2022-2025/2026 period, Bedford Borough recorded a land supply of 6.56 years.

A2.23 The HEDNA[38] found that the workplace income to property price ratio in Milton Keynes in 2021 was 9.79. This means, on average, residents in Milton Keynes need 9.79 times the gross annual salary to buy a medium-priced property. This is greater than the workplace income ratios of 9.7 in Bedford and 9.4 in Central Bedfordshire. In addition, the Milton Keynes ratio is above the national average of 8.92[39]. This increases the likelihood that Milton Keynes residents

[36] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/housing-development-monitoring
[37] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/five-year-housing-land-supply
[38] Reference to be added when document available.
[39] https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Milton-Keynes-salary-and-unemployment.html

will spend a greater proportion of their income on housing and/or spend longer paying off their mortgage.

A2.24 Data gathered by MKCC indicates that homelessness levels in Milton Keynes have decreased since the pandemic. Table A2.7 outlines the number of approaches to MKCC for housing per year since 2018/19, as well as a breakdown of the number of decisions/acceptances made on formal applications for housing and the types of applicants.

Table A2.7: Homelessness approaches to MKCC.							
Year	Approaches made	Decisions made	Acceptances	Single applicants	Single male	Single female	Single not specified
2018/19	2275	633	373	527	330	192	5
2019/20	2581	795	721	856	579	274	3
2020/21	1964	770	584	848	616	223	9
2021/22	1515	470	420	582	387	191	4

Economy and Skills

A2.25 Unemployment in Milton Keynes has seen a significant drop since last year's AMR was published. The current unemployment figure, as of May 2022, is 3.9% compared with 5.4% in August 2021 and 1.9% in April 2019. The unemployment rate in Milton Keynes is higher than the national rate of 3.8% and the Southeast Midlands rate of 3.8%. We publish a report monthly which can be found on our website[40]. This report highlights the unemployment figures and job availability in Milton Keynes.

A2.26 Table A2.8 shows the claimant count for Milton Keynes and surrounding areas. There were 6,620 individuals in Milton Keynes claiming Universal Credit who were also classed as out of work in May 2022. With a Claimant Count rate of 3.9%, Milton Keynes is higher than the national rate of 3.8%, higher than the SEMLEP rate of 3.8% and higher than the regional rate of 3.0%. However, these figures are all lower than previous years (see our 2020/2021 AMR[41]).

Table A2.8: Milton Keynes, Comparators and SEMLEP Claimant Count, May 2022[42].						
Gender	**Male**		**Female**		**Male and Female Total**	
	Number	**Rate**	**Number**	**Rate**	**Number**	**Rate**
Area						
Bedford	2,715	5.2	1,955	3.6	4,665	4.4

[40] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics
[41] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/authority-monitoring-report
[42] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics

Central Bedfordshire	2,310	2.6	1,980	2.1	4,295	2.4
Luton	4,950	7.1	3,505	5.4	8,450	6.3
Milton Keynes	**3,740**	**4.5**	**2,875**	**3.4**	**6,620**	**3.9**
North Northamptonshire	3,965	3.8	2,995	2.8	6,960	3.3
West Northampton	5,080	4.0	3,870	3.1	8,950	3.6
South East Midlands	**22,765**	**4.3**	**17,180**	**3.3**	**39,940**	**3.8**
South East	**98,200**	**3.5**	**71,445**	**2.5**	**169,645**	**3.0**
United Kingdom	**948,165**	**4.5**	**659,320**	**3.1**	**1,607,485**	**3.8**

A2.27 Table A2.9 breaks down the claimant count into wards. In May 2022, there were eight wards within MK with rates above the borough average of 3.9%. Levels of unemployment were highest in the wards of Woughton and Fishermead (7.2%), Bletchley East (6.2%) and Central Milton Keynes (5.8%).

Table A2.9: Ward Unemployment in Milton Keynes, May 2022[43].

Area	Total Claimants	
	Number	Rate
Milton Keynes	**6620**	**3.9**
Bletchley East	575	6.2
Bletchley Park	445	5.2
Bletchley West	295	3.5
Bradwell	370	4.8
Broughton	315	2.7
Campbell Park & Old Woughton	280	3.4
Central Milton Keynes	690	5.8
Danesborough & Walton	215	2.7
Loughton & Shenley	245	2.3
Monkston	230	2.6
Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope	145	2.2
Newport Pagnell South	215	3.2
Olney	130	2.0
Shenley Brook End	250	2.8
Stantonbury	435	4.5
Stony Stratford	280	4.1
Tattenhoe	205	2.5
Wolverton	465	4.7

[43] https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics

Woughton & Fishermead	830	7.2

A2.28 Based on data published in October 2022, the average salary for the 2021/2022 Tax Year in Milton Keynes was £39.7k. This compares to an equivalent amount in Bedford Borough and £36.5k in Central Bedfordshire. The United Kingdom average is recorded as £40.0k, making the average salary in Milton Keynes slightly below average. However, the median salary in Milton Keynes is £35.2k, compared to £32.1k in Central Bedfordshire, £33.1k in Bedford Borough and a national median salary of £33.0k. This data suggests a larger proportion of the population in Milton Keynes are on salaries below the average, with a smaller proportion of earners earning significantly more than average, and therefore skewing the average[44].

A2.29 The Milton Keynes economy (GDP) was worth £14.03 billion in 2020, this makes the city's economy larger than that of Leicester, Portsmouth, or Cardiff. The value of goods and services produced within the borough in 2020 was £73,500 per worker, which is one of the highest in the UK. The Irwin Mitchell UK Powerhouse reports consistently rank Milton Keynes as one of the top UK cities for both existing and forecast growth in employment and Gross Value Added (GVA)[45].

A2.30 The gross value added in Milton Keynes in 2019 was 14,027 million pounds, compared to 15,513 million pounds in Buckinghamshire. The part of the Milton Keynes economy with the most GVA was the services sector, worth 12,212 million pounds, followed by "wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles" (3,026 million pounds) and "motor trades" (1,794 million pounds).

A2.31 Table A2.10 shows the total number of jobs available in Milton Keynes from 2014 to 2020. There was a peak of jobs in 2016 and 2019 but it has since fallen in 2020. This is mainly due to the pandemic, and a decrease that was expected but not as bad as it could have been. This shows that companies feel Milton Keynes is a good place to create and have a business and that our economic recovery should be a steady one.

Table A2.10: Total number of jobs in Milton Keynes from 2014-2020.[46]

	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Total Jobs	175,000	189,000	203,000	197,000	198,000	204,000	191,000
Jobs Density	1.03	1.11	1.19	1.16	1.17	1.21	1.13

Table A2.11: Occupations in Milton Keynes compared to the Southeast and Great Britain 2021.[47]

Occupation	**Milton Keynes Total**	**Milton Keynes %**	**Southeast %**	**Great Britain %**
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	11,400	7.9	12.2	10.5

[44] https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Milton-Keynes-salary-and-unemployment.html
[45] https://irwinmitchell.turtl.co/story/uk-powerhouse-2022-fdi-into-the-uk/page/2/1
[46] http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp
[47] http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp

Professional Occupations	39,500	27.4	24.6	23.7
Associate Prof and Tech Occupations	24,900	17.3	16.5	15.3
Administration and Secretarial Occupations	12,900	8.9	10.4	10.2
Skilled Trades	9,400	6.5	8.4	8.8
Caring, Leisure and Other Services	11,100	7.7	9.3	9.2
Sales and Customer Service	13,700	9.5	6.3	6.9
Processing Plant and Machine Operatives	8,000	5.5	4.1	5.5
Elementary Occupations	13,000	9.0	7.9	9.6
	143,800			

A2.32 Table A2.11 shows the different skilled occupations in Milton Keynes compared to the Southeast region and Great Britain as a whole. Milton Keynes has a lower proportion of skilled trades than within the wider Southeast region and Great Britain as a whole, but a higher proportion of occupations in sales. Milton Keynes also has a lower proportion of managers, directors, and senior officials than the wider South-East and Great Britain, but a greater percentage of Professionals and Tech occupations. The proportion of administration roles was also recorded at below the national average.

A2.33 The Milton Keynes Local Economic Assessment (2019) noted that in 2017 there were 2,105 new businesses and 1,840 businesses which closed, resulting in a net increase of 265 enterprises that year. This performance followed two prior years of decreasing business "births" each year and an increasing number of business "deaths". Recent data from 2020 continues this trend. In 2020 there were 1,665 business births compared with 1,910 business deaths. This meant there were 14,235 active businesses at the end of 2020. Reflecting the expected drop in the number of jobs in Milton Keynes in 2020, it is likely the business births/deaths figures were skewed by the pandemic and the restrictions placed on many business operations during it.

A2.34 The percentage of MK residents aged 16-64 with NVQ2+ and NVQ4+ qualifications increased between 2018 and 2021, as shown in Table A2.12. The national average percentage of the working population with NVQ4+ qualifications is provided for comparison.

Table A2.12: The percentage of MK residents aged 16-64 with NVQ2+ and NVQ4+ qualifications and National Average percentage of the working age population with NVQ4+ qualifications by year[48][49].

	2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
MK % with NVQ2+	75.6	76.8	77	78.9
MK % with NVQ4+	39.6	43.9	40.7	43.4

[48] https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew
[49] https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all

National Average % with NVQ4+	39.2	40.2	43	-

A2.35 Table A2.13 sets out the percentage of students in MK (and nationally) achieving between grades 4-9 at GCSE, between 2018 and 2021. As shown, attainment rates have been increasing in Milton Keynes as they have been nationally, although attainment in Milton Keynes is below the national average. For comparison, attainment rates in Northampton and Luton is 73.31% and 64.83% respectively.

Table A2.13: The percentage of pupils achieving 9-4 grades in Maths and English at GCSE in Milton Keynes and the National Average by year[50]

	2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
MK %	60.3	61.51	66.59	69.5
National Average %	64.4	64.89	71.23	72.2

Transport

A2.36 Due to a lack of comprehensive data on recent private transport usage (stemming from a reliance on 2011 Census data on this topic, as noted in ITP's 2019 MK Mobility and Rapid Transit Study[51]), it is not possible to currently measure the overall modal share of different transport options within the borough, whether it be to and from work, school/university and/or leisure activities. For the same reason, it is not possible to accurately determine current car ownership data. It is expected the 2021 Census shall provide clarity on these matters and shall be picked up at later stages of the SA process.

A2.37 Notwithstanding this, we have some data on bicycle use and amount of pedestrian travel in the borough. Installation of walking and cycling counters at 10 locations around MK has enabled the recording of pedestrian and cyclist counts and a proxy measure for active travel in Milton Keynes. Table A2.14 compares the overall counts for pedestrians and cyclists in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The trends are mixed depending on the location. It is likely the data for 2020-2021 was influenced by the pandemic and associated restrictions on travel to workplaces.

Table A2.14: Comparison of Overall Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts in MK 2019-2021. MKCC Transport Policy Team.

Date	**2019-2020**	**2020-2021**	**Difference**
Counter Location			
H6 Willen	546,043	796,154	250,111
V7 North CMK	381,548	216,938	-164,610
Railway Walk V10	143,536	216,074	72,538
V7 South CMK	236,372	189,619	-46,753

[50] https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all
[51] https://www.mkfutures2050.com/evidence-for-the-strategy-for-2050

Monkston V11	132,821	174,395	41,574
V7 Bletchley	149,842	134,784	-15,058
Kiln Farm V4	113,945	125,490	11,545
Far Bletchley V2/H8	90,760	125,375	34,615
Peartree Lane	119,712	115,294	-4,418
MK Central (cyclists only)	92,051	54,476	-37,575

Historic Environment and Heritage

A2.38 As of October 2022, there were 27 Conservation Areas, 1113 Listed Buildings and 49 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) in Milton Keynes. There is also a high number of Archaeological Notification Sites (ANS) in the borough, particularly in areas outside the city boundary. Figures A2.10-A2.13 show the spatial distribution of ANS, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and SMs in the MKCC area. As shown, all types of heritage assets can be found within the New Town part of the city, as well as areas that pre-date the New Town.

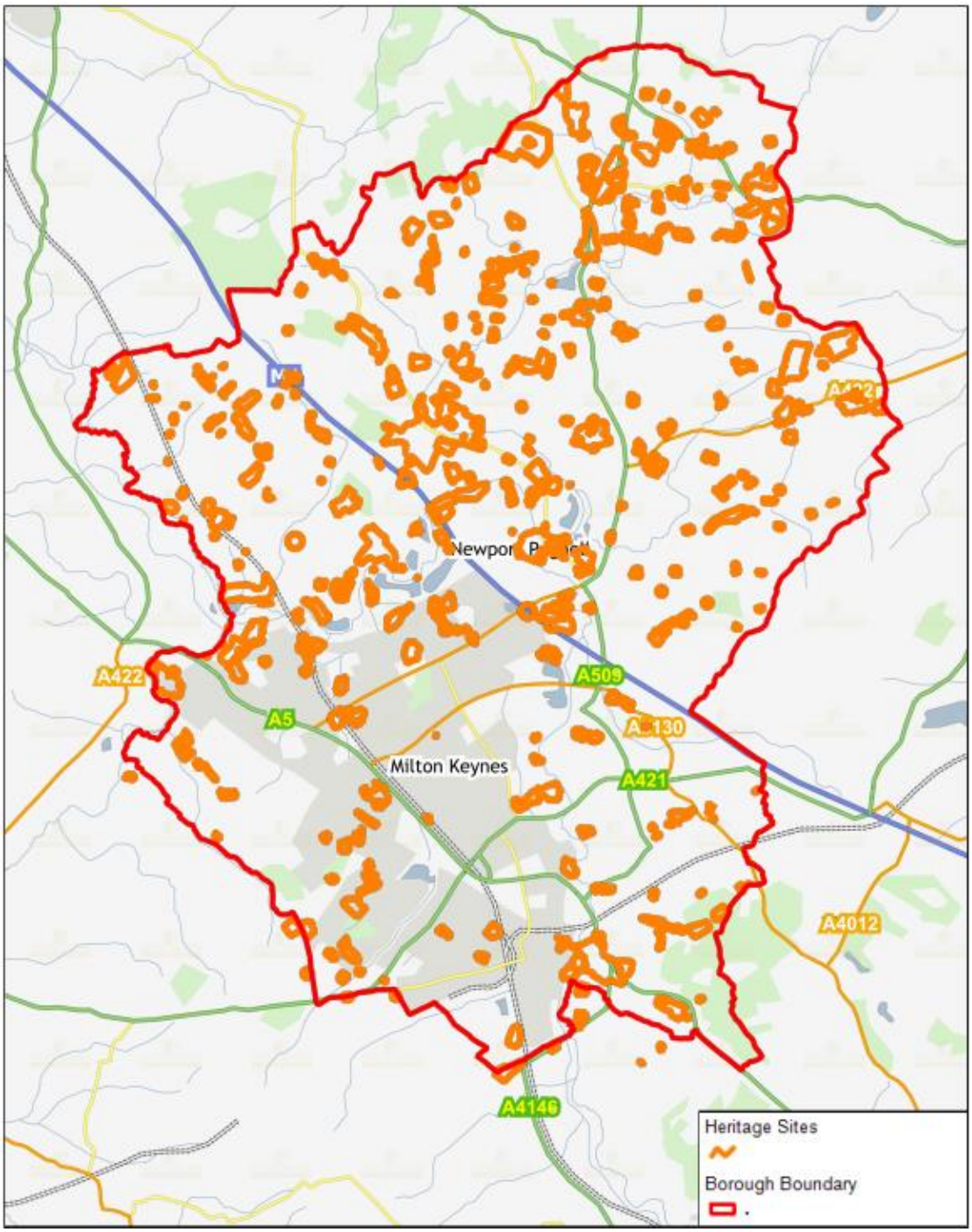

Figure A2.10: Location of Archaeological Notification Sites in Milton Keynes.

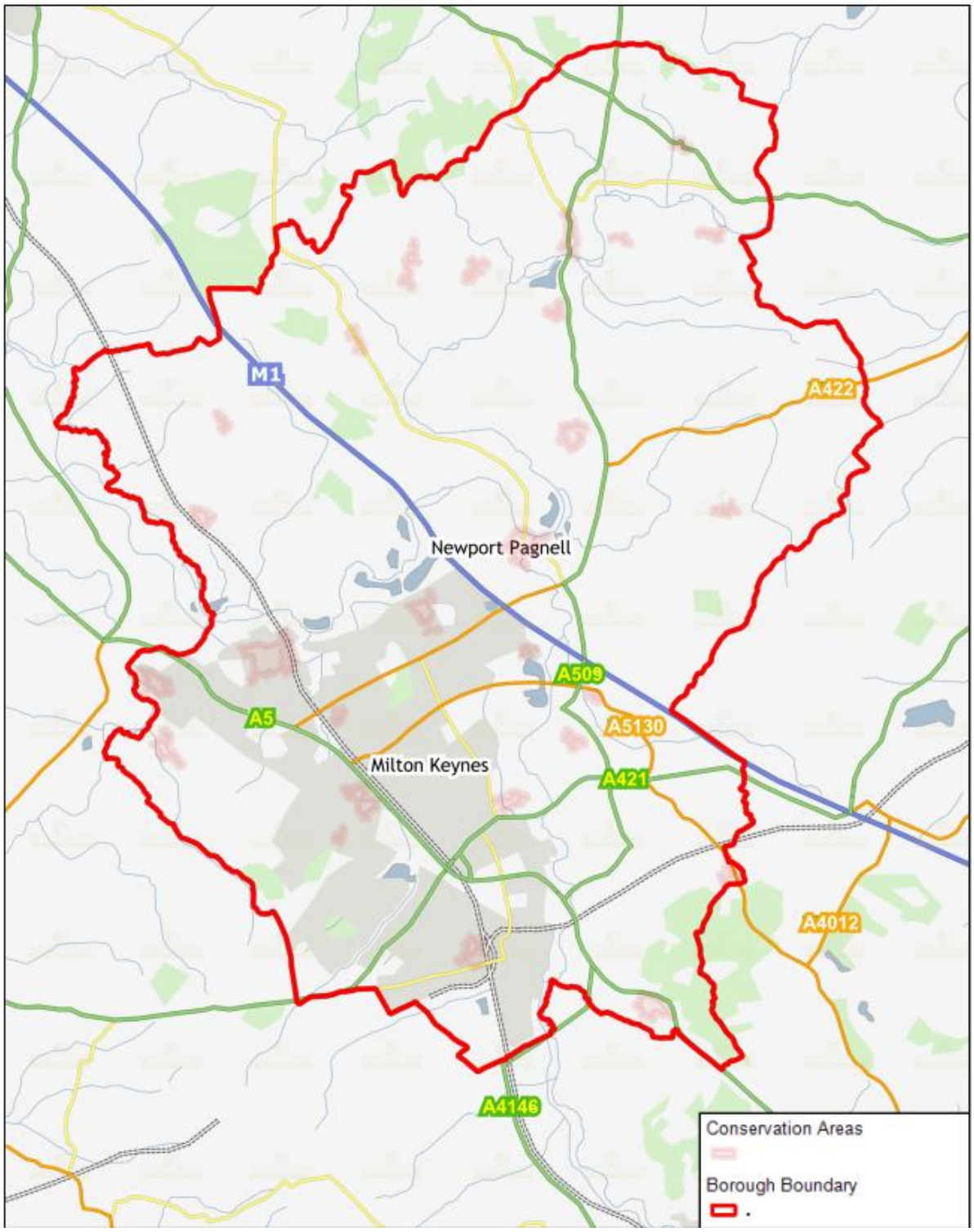

Figure A2.11: Location of Conservation Areas in Milton Keynes.

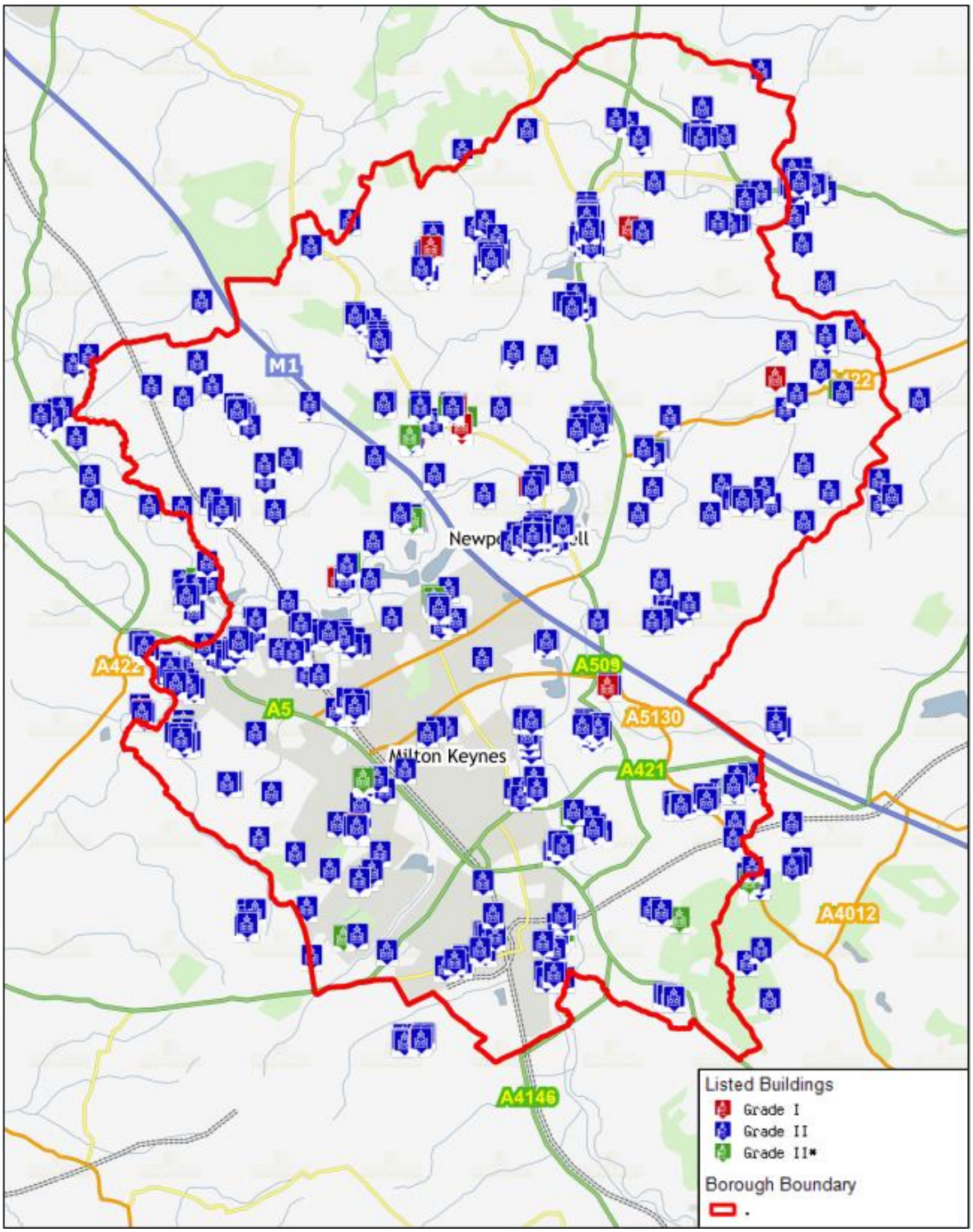

Figure A2.12: Location of Listed Buildings in Milton Keynes.

Figure A2.13: Location of Scheduled Monuments in Milton Keynes.

A2.39 The June 2022 version of the register lists 21 heritage assets that are at risk (a reduction from 31 in the previous year). Each asset is assigned a risk rating, reflecting the varying degrees of risk of further degradation to the asset, ranging from 'A - immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed' through to 'F – repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented'. Amongst the 10 assets reported as removed since the

previous report (2021), are significant assets such as the Bradwell Abbey farmhouse (see below) which has yielded significant finds in the process of conservation. These include previously hidden 15th Century walls within the structure.

Water, Pollution and Climate Change

A2.40 Using data downloaded from the Environment Agency in April 2022, Figure A2.14 shows the extent of flood zones 2 and 3 within the MKCC area.

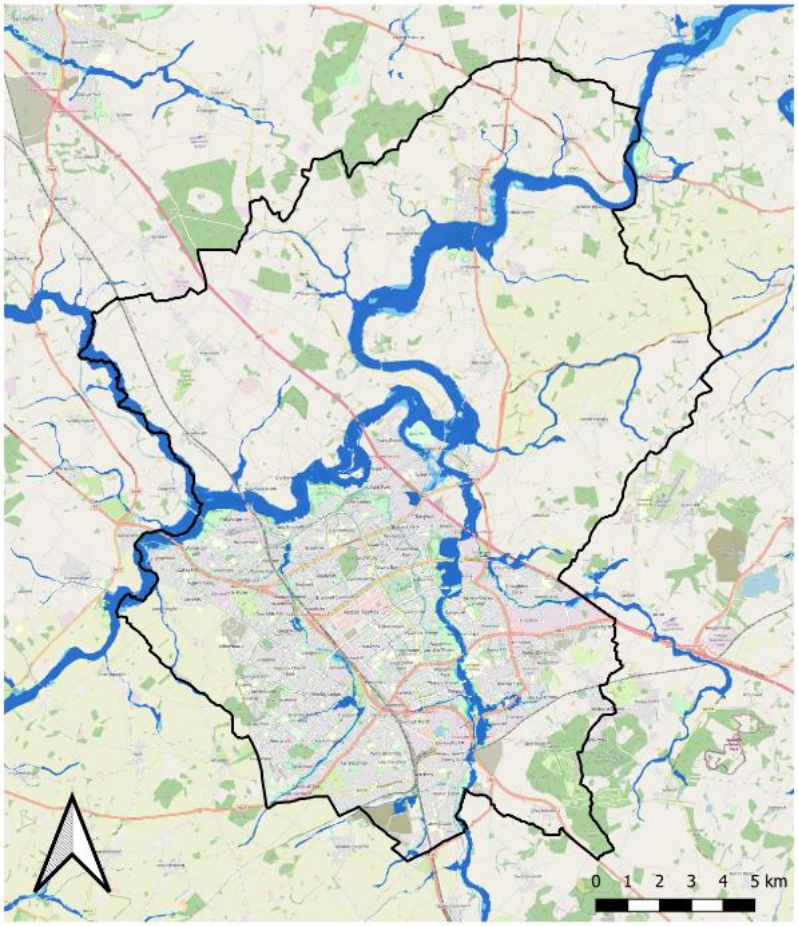

Figure A2.14: Extent of Flood Zones 2 and 3 in Milton Keynes.

A2.41 Most areas within the MKCC area that are susceptible to flooding are adjacent to the River Ouse and River Ouzel, and tributaries to these rivers such as Loughton Brook and the River Tove. The historic approach to managing flood risk within the city has been to surround these rivers and brooks with public open spaces, such as linear parks, which act as floodplains. This approach reduces the chances of surrounding built up areas flooding. The linear park network also includes a system of balancing lakes which provide additional capacity during times of high rainfall. Willen Lake and Caldecotte Lake are examples of these.

A2.42 Most of the drinking water supplied to Milton Keynes comes from Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire. Milton Keynes falls within the Ruthamford South water resource zone. The Milton Keynes Water Cycle Study (2018) written to support Plan:MK stated that the zone "is predicted to have a baseline supply-demand deficit of 10.82 Ml/d (during the Dry Year Annual Average) by the end of AMP9 (2034/35) and a deficit of 18.04 Ml/d by 2040". Recent data published in the Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England (November 2022) by Water Resources East states that water use continues to rise and, if urgent action is not taken to solve this issue, demand will exceed supply within years rather than decades[52]. Note that the 2018 MKCC Water Cycle Study will be replaced in due course by a new study supporting the MKNCP. Any up-to-date statistics shall be picked up at later stages of the SA process.

A2.43 The Environment Agency's (EA) Catchment Data Explorer provides information on the quality of water bodies within Milton Keynes that the EA is responsible for managing. Milton Keynes falls within the Upper Ouse and Bedford management catchment, and this is split into five separate operational catchments. Milton Keynes is in three of these operational catchments: the Great Ouse Upper catchment, the Ouzel and Milton Keynes catchment and the Great Ouse Bedford catchment. The status for rivers in the MKCC area, and rivers with part of their catchment in the MKCC area, are shown in Table A2.15 and provide a benchmark for future analysis of water quality in these watercourses. As the data shows, all water bodies located in or within catchment areas in the MKCC area are classed as 'Fail' for the overall chemical status tests. Some, but not all, water bodies were rated 'poor' for water ecological status tests.

Table A2.15: Water Quality in Water Bodies in MKCC area in 2019. Source: Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer[53].

Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body ID	Water Body Name	Type	Modified Waters Designation	Overall Water Body Class	Ecological Class	Chemical Class
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037840	Newton Longville Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037870	Weald Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037910	Deanshanger Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037900	Loughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037920	Ouse (Buckingham to Cosgrove)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037930	Broughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail

[52] https://wre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WRE-draft-Regional-Water-Resources-Plan.pdf
[53] https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/

Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037971	Ouzel US Caldecote Mill	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037972	Ouzel DS Caldecote Mill	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037990	Potterspury Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038000	Ouse (Wolverton to Newport Pagnell)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038040	Chicheley Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038070	Tathall Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038140	Bromham Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038160	Ravenstone Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033038180	Tove (DS Greens Norton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033047923	Ouse (Newport Pagnell to Roxton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037630	Clipstone Brook Tributary	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Good	Fail

A2.44 Every year we publish an Air Quality Annual Status Report. The pollutant of most concern in the MKCC area is nitrogen dioxide, a product of internal combustion engines in road traffic. This year's report (based on 2021 data) shows a continued slight downward trend in nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10}) levels at the Civic Offices, Newport Pagnell, and Olney air monitoring stations. Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ levels in 2021 (7.88 µg/m^3) were higher than in 2020 (7.56 µg/m^3), but lower than in 2019 (11.2 µg/m^3). The nitrogen dioxide and PM_{10} results in Olney are further evidence supporting an end to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the centre of the town. For comparison, Milton Keynes tends not to have as much air pollution (although it does still occur) as neighbouring authorities. Bedford Town Centre is subject to a continuing AQMA[54]. Central Bedfordshire has four AQMAs in Dunstable, Sandy (x2) and Ampthill[55], and Buckinghamshire has 9 AQMAs[56].

[54] https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/noise-nuisances-and-pollution/air-quality/air-quality-overview
[55] https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/52/types_of_pollution/292/air_quality/3
[56] https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/air-and-water-quality/air-quality-status-report-2021/

A2.45 Between 1 April 2019 and 1 April 2020, we received 1,859 noise complaints. In many cases the Planning system cannot influence noise sources. For example, planning decisions cannot help to resolve the 299 complaints received about barking dogs. However, Table A2.16 sets out the types of noises that may be influenced through careful design in development and construction management.

Table A2.16: Number of complaints relating to noises that may be influenced by the planning system.

Noise Source	**Number of Complaints**
Machinery (fixed) e.g., fans, boiler	41
Plant/machinery (mobile) e.g., construction	131
People	407
Music	515
Party	89
TV/Radio	16
Vehicles	65
Vehicle Repair	15

A2.46 The Centre of Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) released a Place-Based Carbon Calculator (PBCC) in 2021[57]. This provides average (per person) carbon footprint data for each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the MKCC area, as well as allowing comparison of the MKCC area's overall performance against England as a whole.

A2.47 The overall carbon footprint of Milton Keynes, as calculated by the most recent version of the PBCC (last updated 8 September 2022), was 9,802.8 kgCO2e per person. This is higher than the average England carbon footprint of 8,318.8 kgCO2e per person. When first released, the PBCC used a 2018 base year, as some datasets used to create the calculator did not have later data. Since then, updates have taken place and the per person carbon footprint has increased from the levels reported in our 2020-2021 AMR (9,198.8 kgCO2e). However, it is not clear if the base year has been changed to a more recent year. We have approached the CREDs team for clarity on this. For comparison, the per person carbon footprints in Bedford Borough, Aylesbury Vale and Central Bedfordshire were 9,284.7 kgCO2e, 10,929 kgCO2e, and 9,726.6 kgCO2e respectively.

A2.48 Table A2.17 shows the LSOAs in the MKCC area with the highest and lowest rated carbon footprints. Notably, the highest per person carbon footprint is 6.2 times higher than the lowest per person carbon footprint. By applying current planning policies and other council initiatives we plan to reduce emissions in all LSOAs. However, lower than average carbon emissions in an area does not necessarily mean that area is sustainable overall. The LSOAs in Woughton and Fishermead and Bletchley East rank among some of the most deprived areas in the MKCC area (in terms of IMD). It is well documented that people in less deprived areas tend to have higher carbon emissions, due to higher rates of resource consumption[58].

[57] https://www.carbon.place/
[58] https://theconversation.com/emissions-inequality-there-is-a-gulf-between-global-rich-and-poor-113804/

Table A2.17: LSOAs with the lowest 1% and highest 1% of carbon footprints in the borough. Data source: CREDS.		
LSOA Code	**General Area**	**Carbon Footprint (kgCO2e per person)**
Lowest		
E01016845	Woughton and Fishermead	2,960
E01016743	Bletchley East	2,870
Highest		
E01016833	Bletchley Park	17,800
E01016792	Newport Pagnell South	16,900
E01016802	Olney	17,600

A2.49 Table A2.18 shows carbon dioxide emissions trends in Milton Keynes between 2016 and 2020. As the data indicates, there has been a gradual downward trend in emissions. However, the significant emissions reduction seen in 2020 was likely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is possible that emissions data for 2021 and 2022 (when available) may rise to a level higher than seen in 2019.

Table A2.18: Carbon dioxide emissions in Milton Keynes 2016-2020 (measured in kilo-tonnes of CO2)[59]. Source: ONS.					
Emissions Source	**Year**				
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Industry Electricity	94.7	84.9	76.4	66.7	52.8
Industry Gas	43.3	48	44.1	49.2	54.8
Large Industrial Installations	0	0	0	0	0
Industry 'Other'	35.5	37.1	37	34.4	33.3
Industry Total	**173.5**	**170**	**157.5**	**150.2**	**140.9**
Commercial Electricity	154.4	133.6	119.9	102.9	77.6
Commercial Gas	54.9	61.7	62.3	57.5	55.7

[59] Note, this dataset distinguishes between emissions estimates within the scope of local authorities (excluding large industrial sites, railways and motorways, and non-planning influenced land-use changes such as woodland to wetland) and estimates including such data. Data in this table excludes emissions outside the MKC's scope.

Commercial 'Other'	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.6
Commercial Total	**210.4**	**196.5**	**183.4**	**161.5**	**133.9**
Public Sector Electricity	38	32.7	29.5	25.4	20.3
Public Sector Gas	24	23.1	24.7	23.9	24.4
Public Sector 'Other'	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
Public Sector Total	**62.4**	**56.4**	**54.9**	**49.8**	**44.9**
Domestic Electricity	118.5	102.9	93.6	83.7	80.5
Domestic Gas	249.1	239.6	240	240.5	243.2
Domestic 'Other'	17.7	17.7	18	17	17.2
Domestic Total	**385.3**	**360.2**	**351.7**	**341.2**	**341**
Road Transport (A roads)	162.7	164.7	155	154	118
Road Transport (Minor roads)	270.8	258.7	254.5	254.9	213.7
Transport 'Other'	2.9	2.9	2.9	3	2.6
Transport Total	**436.4**	**426.3**	**412.4**	**411.8**	**334.3**
Agriculture Electricity	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.9	2.8
Agriculture Gas	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Agriculture 'Other'	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Agriculture Total	**6.4**	**6.2**	**6.2**	**6**	**7.9**
Waste Management 'Other'	0	0	0	0	0

Waste Management Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Grand Total	**1,274.30**	**1,215.60**	**1,166.00**	**1,120.60**	**1,002.90**

A2.50 Policy SC1 (Sustainable Construction) in Plan:MK seeks to reduce emissions coming from the operation of new dwellings and buildings. In the 2021-2022 monitoring year, out of the 285 planning applications that were assessed against Policy SC1, 3 were refused. This equals a 98.95% approval rating.

Natural Environment and Biodiversity

A2.51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are notable for their national geological and/or biodiversity importance. There are currently three SSSIs (wholly or partially) in the MKCC area. In comparison, there are 65 SSSIs in Buckinghamshire, 42 in Bedfordshire (including Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire), and 57 across the Northamptonshire authority areas[60].

A2.52 Natural England's objective is to achieve 'favourable condition' status for all SSSIs. As of 13 April 2022, the status of the sites in Milton Keynes are as follows:

a. Howe Park Wood SSSI, located near Tattenhoe and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 22/07/2020 and was rated 'favourable'.
b. Oxley Mead SSSI, namesake for the Oxley Park estate surrounding it and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 04/06/2008 and was rated 'favourable'.
c. Yardley Chase SSSI is partly situated in Milton Keynes with the rest in Northamptonshire. It is near Ravenstone and Olney. The 13 different habitat areas in the SSSI were last assessed on various dates between 2011 and 2017, with two areas being rated as 'favourable' and the other 11 being rated as 'unfavourable – recovering'. In the 2020/2021 AMR one of these areas was incorrectly identified as 'unfavourable - recovering', hence the update.

A2.53 There is one nature reserve in the MKCC area: the Blue Lagoon near Bletchley.

A2.54 Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands[61] for containing representative, rare, or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity. There are no Ramsar sites in Milton Keynes. Neither Buckinghamshire nor Bedfordshire feature Ramsar sites. However, there is one Ramsar site in Northamptonshire at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits[62].

A2.55 There are a wide range of wildlife sites within the MKCC area and can be separated into the following categories: Priority Habitats, Local Wildlife Sites and Biological Notification Sites. For

[60] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx
[61] https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-convention/#:~:text=Ramsar%20Sites%20are%20wetlands%20of,importance%20in%20conserving%20biological%20diversity
[62] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx

baseline purposes, as of April 2022 the total areas of these different types of sites are as listed below. Note that the site areas counted are clipped to the MKCC area boundary; the data doesn't include any part of an area that extends beyond the boundary.

d. Priority Habitats: 510.428 hectares.
e. Local Wildlife Sites: 766.47 hectares.
f. Biological Notification Sites: 987.215

A2.56 Figure A2.15 shows the distribution of various wildlife sites around the borough.

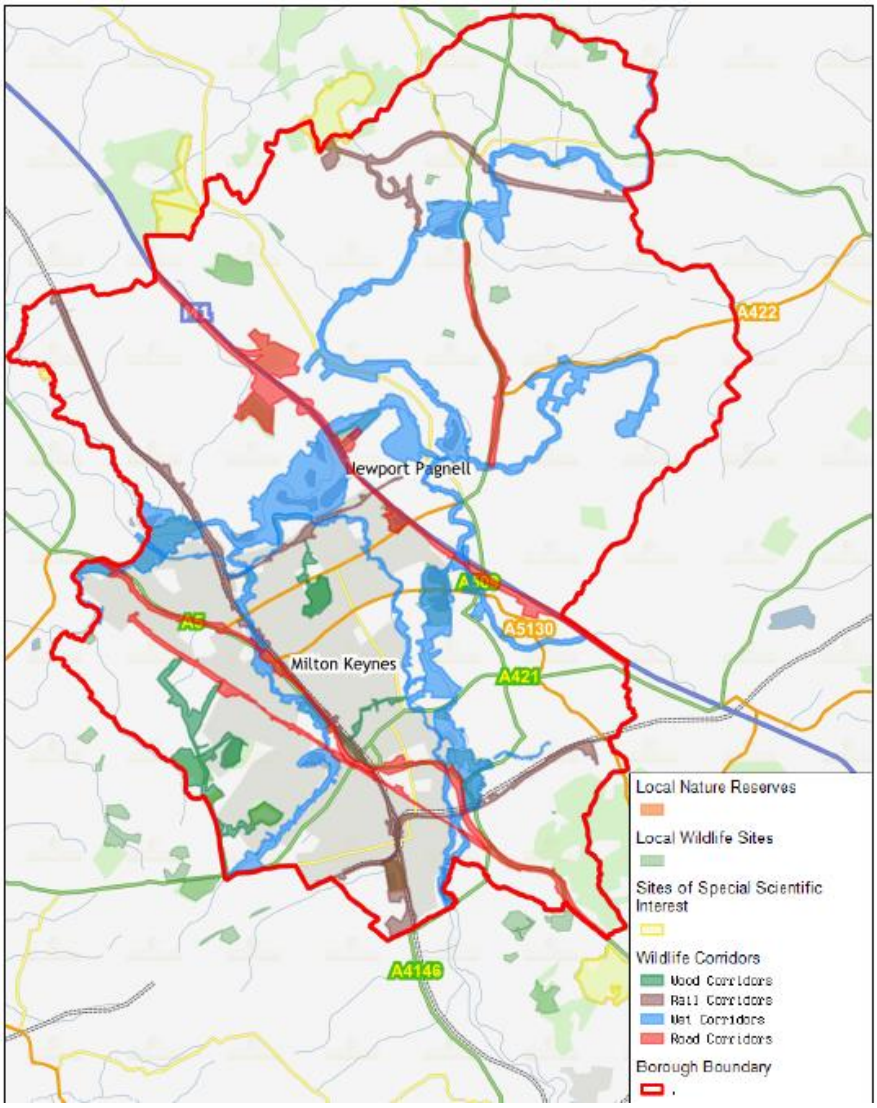

Figure A2.15: Distribution of Different Types of Wildlife Sites in Milton Keynes.

Minerals

A2.57 There are currently three minerals extraction sites active in the MKCC area. These are located near Weston Underwood (building stone), Lathbury (sand and gravel) and Passenham (sand and gravel). Figure A2.16 shows the locations of building stone, sand, and gravel minerals site allocations and Primary and Secondary Minerals Focus Areas.

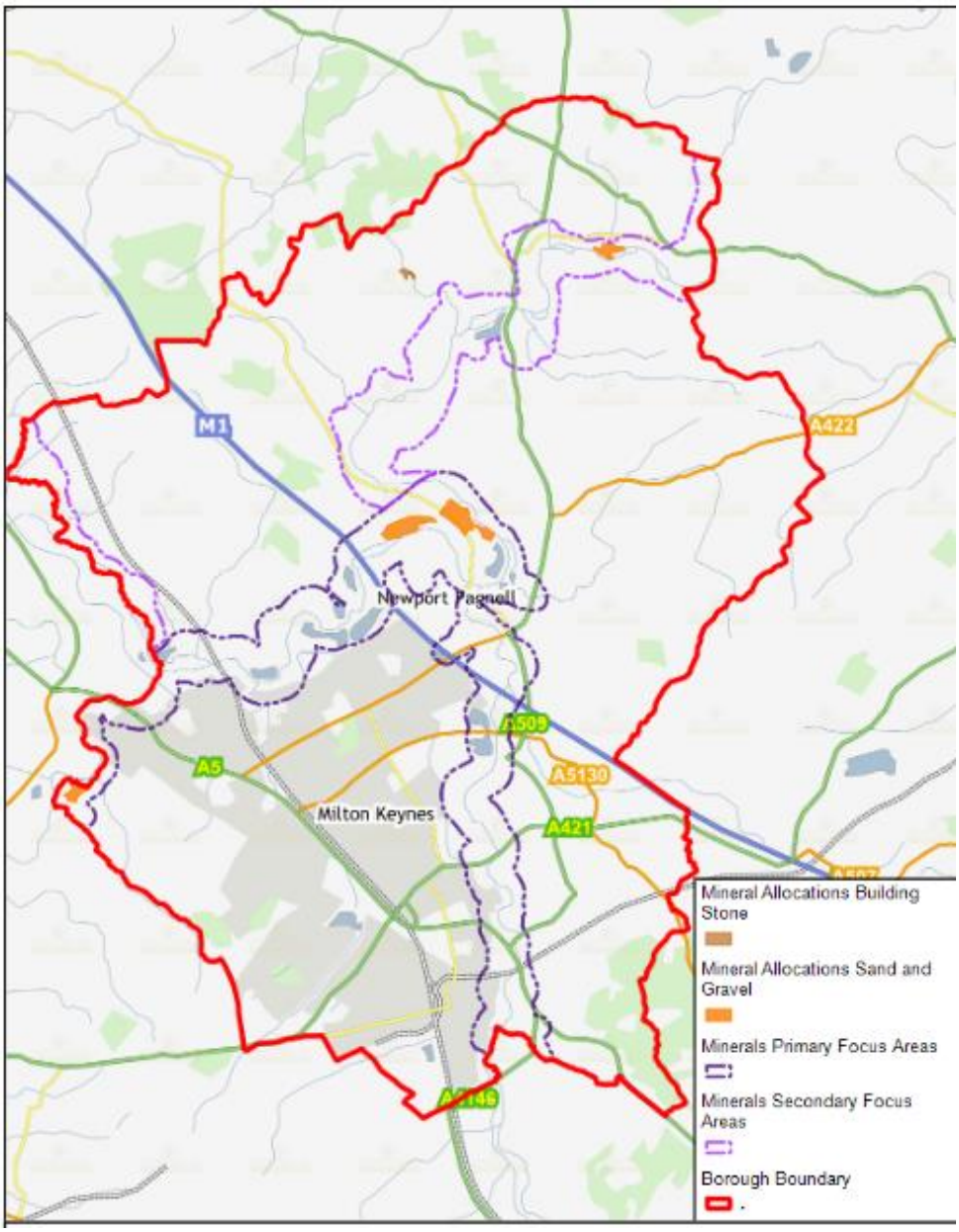

Figure A2.16: Location of Mineral Allocations and Focus Areas in Milton Keynes

Waste

A2.58 As outlined in Table A2.19, for the monitoring period 2021/22, the residual waste per household figure was 501.84kg. This is part of a rising trend over the past three years. It is likely to have been caused by continuing consumption of packed food, fresh food, and food delivery since the pandemic started. Another reason for the increased waste generation is likely to have

been the periods of lockdowns and extended change of working arrangements where more people had been working from home compared to pre-pandemic monitoring years.

Table A2.19: Residual Waste per household in Milton Keynes 2018/19					
Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Residual Household Waste (kg/household)	544.4	431.8	462.58	472.12	501.84

A2.59 Table A2.20 outlines the percentage of Local Authority collected waste recycled, both as a total and broken down into household and non-household waste for 2021/22. Comparison with the previous three years is also shown. Table A2.21 then outlines the ways the collected waste has been managed across the same time periods. For comparison, 46.1% of household waste in Central Bedfordshire was sent for reuse, recycling and composting in 2020/2021. In Buckinghamshire, Bedford Borough and South Northamptonshire, the equivalent recycling rates were 51.20%, 40% and 59.60% respectively[63].

Table A2.20: Percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste recycled 2015/16 – 2021/22										
	2017/18		**2018/19**		**2019/20**		**2020/21**		**2021/22**	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**
Household Waste: Dry recycling or Reuse	32636	26.4	35605	30.4	36150	26.64	31720	23.90	42667	35.21
Household Waste: Green recycling or Reuse	31262	25.3	33702	28.7	41449	30.55	40144	30.25	31991	26.40
Household Waste not sent for recycling	59741	48.3	47965	40.9	58083	42.81	60829	45.84	46525	38.39
Total Household Waste	**123639**	**100**	**117272**	**100**	**135682**	**100.00**	**132693**	**100.00**	**121183**	**100**
Non-household waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse	5937	82.2	6093	62.6	4899	51.35	2746	40.59	296	4

[63] https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=46&mod-period=3&mod-area=E07000155&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup&mod-group=AllUnitaryLaInCountry_England

Non-household waste not sent for recycling	1285	17.8	3635	37.4	4641	48.65	4019	59.41	7730	96
Total Non-household Waste	**7222**	**100**	**9728**	**100**	**9540**	**100.00**	**6765**	**100.00**	**8025**	**100**
Local Authority Collected Waste sent for recycling, compost or reuse	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50	74953	58
Local Authority Collected Waste not sent for recycling	61026	46.6	51600	40.6	62724	43.19	64848	46.50	54255	42
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	**130861**	**100**	**127000**	**100**	**145222**	**100.00**	**139458**	**100.00**	**129208**	**100**

Table A2.21: Management of Local Authority Collected Waste 2015/16 – 2021/22

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% waste collected**	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% Waste Collected**
Landfilled	17138	13.1	3276	2.6	0	0	0	0	1149	1
Incineration with EfW	43214	33	42173	33.2	62724	43.19	64848	46.50	53105	41
Incineration without EfW	15	0.01	12	0.009	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recycled/composted	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50	74954	58
Other	659	0.5	6139	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	**130861**	**100**	**127000**	**100**	**145222**	**100**	**139458**	**100**	**129208**	**100**

A2.60 In 2021/2022 we saw an overall decrease compared to previous years with the second lowest number of collected waste across the 5-year period. This is positive and is likely because of re-opening of the economy following lockdown and better industry wide practices towards reducing waste. As both tables A2.20 and A2.21 outline, the total amount of waste generated in the most recent monitoring period decreased by over 10,250 tonnes from the previous year.

For 2021/22, the main reduction was from household and non-household waste that was not sent for recycling. We now see an increase in recycling and less waste generated. Only 58% of Local Authority Collected Waste was sent for recycling, compost, or reuse in 2021/22.

A2.61 The recycling rate has improved year on year. Since 2017-2018 only very minor amounts – accounting for less than 3% of total waste – have been sent to landfill. This increase in recycling coincides with the opening of the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Plant (MKWRP) which has been operational since March 2018. The plant utilises state-of-the-art mechanical treatment and heat energy recovery technologies to manage waste in a more sustainable manner.

Appendix 3: Sustainability Objectives & Considerations

Objective 1: Support establishment of walkable neighbourhoods in existing and new areas by 2050

Considerations

a. Is the role of local centres in new and existing areas in achieving walkable neighbourhoods supported by the location/design of new development and provision of infrastructure, and the plan policies?
b. Does the location of development in, and policies applicable to, rural areas contribute to creation of walkable neighbourhoods and support direct, safe, and attractive active travel between settlements?
c. Do policies support creation of direct, legible and safe walking and cycling routes?

Objective 2: Reduced physical and mental health inequalities through well designed places and by improving access to health facilities, good quality green and blue infrastructure, community, and leisure facilities for all people in MK by 2050.

Considerations

a. Can people easily physically travel to and access health facilities, green and blue infrastructure, and community & leisure facilities?
b. Do health, open space, and community (including education, civic and recreational) facilities have sufficient capacity to accommodate local people?
c. Are there community and leisure facilities within walking distance of people's homes?

Objective 3: Provide and Improve accessibility for communities in line with our modal shift targets and minimise car dependent communities.

Considerations

a. Are new development sites close to public transport stops?
b. Do policies encourage estate layouts and road designs that prioritise direct active travel and public transport routes, and reduce severance of communities?
c. Does the level/design/density of development along public transport routes support public transit viability?
d. Do new developments support reducing congestion and maintaining a reliable and efficient network?

Objective 4: Over the plan period provide a deliverable supply and mix of market and affordable good quality housing, that meets our calculated needs and aspirations.

Considerations

a. Can it be demonstrated at the plan-making stage that sites are deliverable?
b. Does the design, mix and location of new homes meet our local housing needs and aspirations?
c. Do policies reflect the most appropriate affordable housing mix in line with the HEDNA and SHMA?

Objective 5: Over the plan period, new development supports reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in MK including transport decarbonisation, supports communities that can 'bounce-

back' from environmental challenges, helps protect human and environmental health, and supports reductions in fuel poverty.

Considerations

a. Does the location, land use mix and public transport accessibility of new development limit emissions through a reduced need to travel?
b. Does the design of new buildings increase energy efficiency?
c. Do new developments avoid flood risks, and do they withstand the economic and environmental impacts of climate change, economic downturns, and environmental hazards?
d. Does new development and infrastructure support our 2030 carbon neutral and 2050 carbon negative emissions targets?
e. Is new development supported by low or zero carbon infrastructure, such as easy connections into renewable/low carbon energy generation networks?
f. Do landscaping policies support biosecurity?
g. Are building materials sourced locally to reduce embodied carbon?
h. Do developments protect users from pre-existing water, ground, noise, air, and light pollution?
i. Do developments avoid harming the environment, including soils, and human health from water, ground, noise, air, and light pollution?

Objective 6: Designated and non-designated archaeological, built heritage, biodiversity and cultural assets are protected and enhanced over the plan period.

Considerations

a. Is our natural, archaeological, and built heritage protected from harm?
b. Are valued cultural venues (music halls, theatres, galleries, places of worship etc.) protected from changes of use?
c. Are enhancements to the use of cultural venues supported?
d. Will the policy or proposal support a net gain in biodiversity?

Objective 7: Support creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050.

Considerations

a. Does the plan and policies support development and infrastructure that enables the sustainable use of natural resources?
b. Is waste dealt with in accordance with the waste hierarchy?
c. Does the borough contain a sufficient number and size of facilities to process its waste?
d. Do policies support the reduction of and easy management of waste within new developments?
e. Do policies support the recycling of waste construction aggregates as part of a sustainable minerals strategy?

Objective 8: Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures, and contributes to improved water quality by 2050.

Considerations

a. Does the design of new buildings and water infrastructure support high water efficiency?
b. Do new buildings feature water reuse and recycling facilities?

c. Do policies support development and infrastructure that maintains and improves water quality, while recognising the impact of other actors on water quality?

Objective 9: By 2050 Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce.

Considerations

a. Do policies support further establishment of local STEM, green, R&D and knowledge industries?
b. Is employment floorspace in all sectors of the economy and borough protected?
c. Do economic policies support skills diversification?
d. Do policies facilitate the night-time economy?
e. Do policies support creation of a range of business spaces to suit different budgets and requirements?
f. Do policies support implementation of the Minerals Local Plan (2017)?

Objective 10: By 2050, CMK has increased its status as a regional centre for culture, leisure, retail, and business activity; has established a diverse city centre residential community; and strengthened itself as a hub for a Mass Rapid Transport system and other local and regional transport networks.

Considerations

a. Do planning policies support a range of cultural, leisure, retail and business uses in CMK?
b. Does the policy framework for CMK strike a balanced approach between provision of housing, which supports centre vitality, and the above objectives?
c. Does the strategy for and level/design/density of development in CMK/surrounding areas support a viable MRT and public transport system?
d. Do planning policies support the effective rollout of MRT infrastructure, facilities, and services?

Objective 11: In 2050, Milton Keynes is internationally known for the exceptional design quality and innovation of its townscapes and landscapes, which helps improve people's health and wellbeing.

Considerations

a. Are policies and relevant supporting guidance clear about the high design standards we seek?
b. Do policies clearly promote/require (if viable) use of the most sustainable and low carbon materials and building designs?
c. Do policies adequately address the role of transport and highway safety in high quality design?
d. Do policies support safety-focused design?

Appendix 4: Draft Indicators for Appraisal Criteria

Objective Ref.	Objective	Indicator to be used in Appraisal Criteria
1	Support establishment of walkable neighbourhoods in existing and new areas by 2050.	Proximity of proposed housing and employment sites to existing local centres, community facilities and green spaces.
2	Reduced physical and mental health inequalities through well designed places and by improving access to health facilities, good quality green and blue infrastructure, community, and leisure facilities for all people in MK by 2050.	Proximity of sites to existing facilities and spaces.
3	Provide and Improve accessibility for communities in line with our modal shift targets and minimise car dependent communities.	Proximity of sites to existing public transport routes, Redways, and proposed MRT routes
4	Over the plan period provide a deliverable supply and mix of market and affordable good quality housing, that meets our calculated needs and aspirations.	Whether a site would provide affordable housing (based on the minimum threshold).
5	Over the plan period, new development supports reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in MK including transport decarbonisation, supports communities that can 'bounce-back' from environmental challenges, helps protect human and environmental health, and supports reductions in fuel poverty.	Is the site in flood risk zone? Proximity of sites to existing facilities and services, public transport links (with emphasis on rail stations and active travel links) and employment areas. Proximity of sites to areas with higher than local average air pollution levels. Proximity of sites to areas with a high Agricultural Land Classification. Whether a site would use brownfield land or result in remediation of contaminated land.
6	Designated and non-designated archaeological, built heritage, biodiversity and cultural assets are protected and enhanced over the plan period.	Proximity of sites to assets and the likelihood of harm to/sterilisation of the asset.

7	Support creation of a zero-waste economy in MK by 2050.	Proximity of sites to site waste management facilities.
8	Increased water efficiency, including through water reuse and recycling measures, and contributes to improved water quality by 2050.	Proximity of sites to Source Protection Zones.
9	By 2050 Milton Keynes has a prosperous, diverse, inclusive, and resilient economy enabled by a high skilled workforce.	Size of the employment site proposed. Proximity of employment sites to public transport links. Proximity of housing and employment sites to Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas.
10	By 2050, CMK has increased its status as a regional centre for culture, leisure, retail, and business activity; has established a diverse city centre residential community; and strengthened itself as a hub for a Mass Rapid Transport system and other local and regional transport networks.	Proximity of employment sites to the CBD. Location of large retail development allocations within the Primary Shopping Area. Proximity of employment sites to public transport hubs. Proximity of housing sites to area of large open space.
11	In 2050, Milton Keynes is internationally known for its continuing/consistent approach to exceptional design quality and innovation of its townscapes and landscapes, which helps improve people's health and wellbeing.	Whether a site would provide affordable housing (based on the minimum threshold).

Contact details

Development.Plans@milton-keynes.gov.uk

01908 691691

https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-city-plan

Development Plans
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ