

About your hard-working council.

Here to give you
reliable, well run,
good value services

**“ High
performing
well run
council ”**

**SAYS LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

Independent review, 2025

Introduction from the Leader of the Council.

Milton Keynes City Council takes its responsibility to provide good, value for money services to local residents who pay their council tax very seriously.

I am pleased to say that after our recent independent Local Government Association Peer Challenge assessment the council was judged to be a **“high performing, well run council.”**

It is our job to ensure the council tax you pay is spent well on the services people need. Some examples of how we achieve this are:

- The Care Quality Commission rated our Adult Social Care Services as Good and in the **top ten of all councils nationally.**
- OFSTED rated our Children’s Services as Good and some services as **Outstanding.**
- The council fixes a pothole **every twelve minutes.**
- We have maintained weekly bin collections.
- We have kept open all libraries and maintained our Children and Family Centres.

The council does still face significant financial challenges in ensuring we maintain a stable, balanced budget.

Unfortunately, in line with almost all other local councils, the Milton Keynes City Council element of your council tax will rise by 4.99% from April 2026.

While this means Milton Keynes City Council will still have the lowest council tax in the region, I understand this is a difficult decision. That is why the council continues to ensure we have some of the highest levels of support for people when they need it and to help with the cost of living.

I am also very pleased to highlight that the council was recently one of the first in the country to introduce a full Council Tax discount if a family member in a household is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The funding you provide means that the council has again been able to set a balanced budget for 2026/27, and we will continue to work hard to ensure every penny is spent as efficiently as possible.



**Councillor Pete Marland,
Leader of the Council**

Making your council tax work harder.

Like all councils, we're dealing with sharply rising costs and historically reduced Government funding.

To help balance our budget, over the last decade we've found major efficiencies within our workforce, our supplier contracts, and our buildings, making us more cost effective now than ever before.

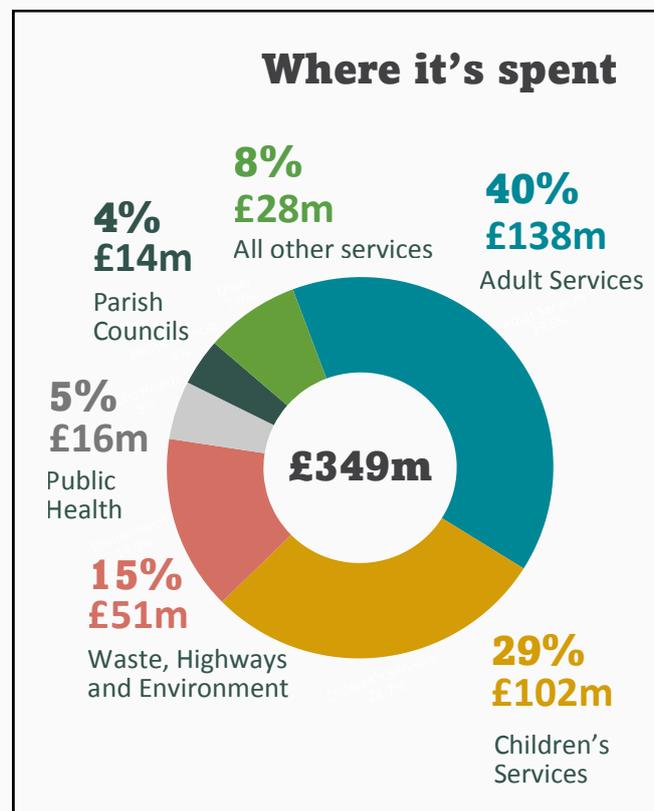
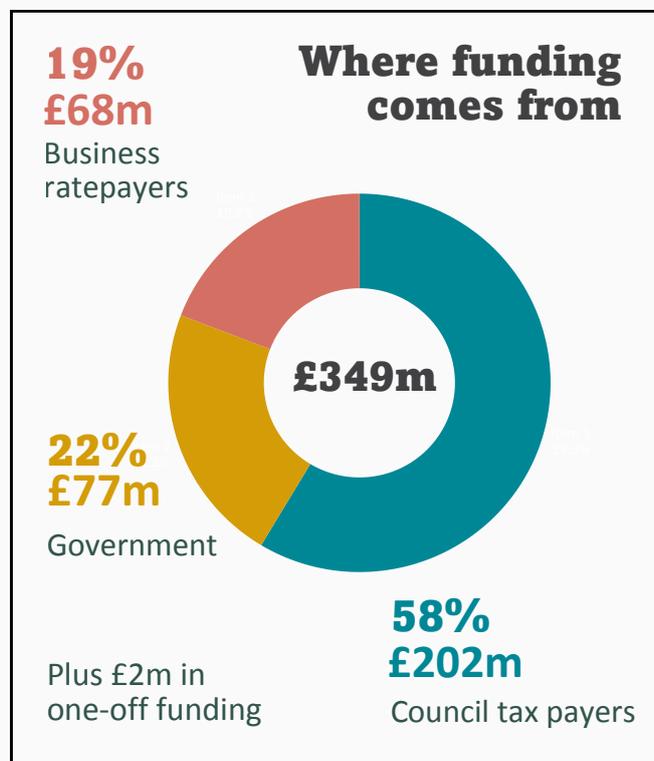
In fact last year, independent reviewers rated us as a high performing and well run council with a strong grip on our spend.

Despite this, we face a continued financial challenge.

Almost 70% of our budget is spent on adult and children's services, like social work and residential care.

As well as keeping vulnerable people safe, which we hope everyone agrees is important, many of these services must be provided by law. When costs go up on these statutory services, we inevitably have less money to spend elsewhere.

We continue to make efficiencies and think creatively to give quality services and good value for money.



How we're performing.

Just a few of the ways we've helped local people and businesses over the past year.

NEWSFLASH

One of the top councils for adult social care

We've just been judged as one of the top ten councils in the country for our adult social care, which inspectors called "supportive, empowering and responsive".



This year we'll open Linford Wood Place, a £13m centre for local people with complex needs, which we've designed with the help of the families using it.

Building homes for the future



For the seventh year running we've smashed national targets for housebuilding with 2,351 new homes, including hundreds of new council homes and an £80m investment in Bletchley.



Aiming high for the next generation

We're number two in the South East of England for the high number of families accessing early years education, and sixth in the country for school attendance rates.

We provided more than 750,000 hours of activities with meals for children receiving free school meals.



£15.7m for hospital expansion



We invested £15.7m from city growth and housebuilding to help Milton Keynes University Hospital expand its cancer and acute care, including towards a new specialist radiotherapy centre which opened last year.

Independent experts gave us a glowing report

Independent experts organised by the Local Government Association reviewed our work and interviewed hundreds of people. Their report found we are a “high performing, well run” council.



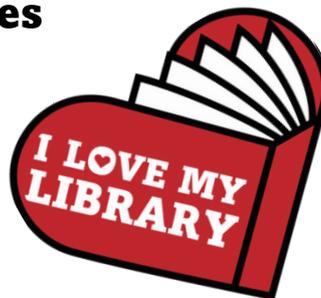
57 potholes fixed every working day

We've invested in technology to help us repair potholes faster and more effectively, and last year filled more than 14,000.



Taking pride in our services

All our inspected services are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding' and many are more popular than ever. For instance our family centres saw a 28% rise in people using them.



We opened a brand new children's library at our central library, and we're investing in the building's future. Our libraries have more than 400,000 visits each year.

Caring for the environment

In 2025 Milton Keynes had the biggest rise in recycling rates of any place in England, leapfrogging dozens of other areas to become one of the country's greenest recycling cities.



Getting a great deal for local people

We negotiate contracts to work better for local people, such as our new five year contract to enhance and maintain our 11,000 council homes.

This means more repairs are being done right first time, which is better for tenants and saves money for everyone.

Let's get to number 1 for recycling.

Last year, the people of Milton Keynes did such a brilliant job recycling, the city jumped 76 places up the national recycling charts into the top 10. It was the largest rise of any place in the UK.

This year, let's get to number one!



Useful information...

When will my bins or sacks be emptied?

Black and green bins are collected weekly. Blue and red bins or sacks will be collected on alternate weeks, blue one week and red the next.

 The black bin or sack is for rubbish that can't be recycled.

 The red and blue bins are for clean, dry, recyclable items.

 The green bin is for food and garden waste.

On collection day, please...

-  Put your bin out by 7am
-  Make sure the lid is closed and the handle is pointing towards the road
-  Check your bins were emptied



2026/27	WEEK COMMENCING				
Apr	6	13	20	27	
May	4	11	18	25	
Jun	1	8	15	22	29
Jul	6	13	20	27	
Aug	3	10	17	24	31
Sept	7	14	21	28	
Oct	5	12	19	26	
Nov	2	9	16	23	30
Dec	7	14	21	28*	
Jan	4*	11*	18*	25	
Feb	1	8	15	22	
Mar	1	8	15	22	29

For collection days over Christmas visit:
www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/collection-days

Used batteries can be placed in a yellow battery recycling bag or a clear sandwich bag on top of your green bin for collection. Most batteries can be recycled at many supermarkets.



Local elections are on 7 May

Local elections are happening in Milton Keynes on 7 May, and every single council seat will be part of the elections.

Your poll card, which arrives in April, will tell you where to vote. You can also check, and find out lots more about the elections at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections-2026

Vote for up to three candidates

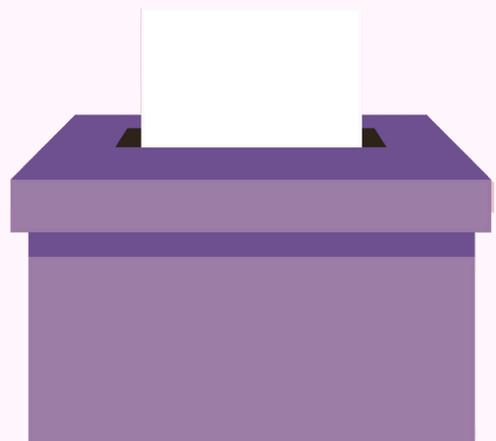
Most neighbourhoods, also called wards, will have three councillors to serve local people. If you live in one of these wards you will be able to vote for up to three candidates.

Deadlines to remember

- 20 April, register to vote
- By 5pm on 21 April, apply for a postal vote
- By 5pm on 28 April, apply for a proxy vote or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

Make sure you have acceptable Photo ID

You'll need to bring acceptable Photo ID to the polling station to vote. Scan the QR code to find out what's accepted and apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate if you need one.



Could this be the year you change a child's life?

(and maybe your own...)

Our fantastic team of foster carers tell us that fostering is sometimes challenging but it's always incredibly rewarding.

Almost anyone over 21 can be a foster carer. It takes patience, a big heart and a good sense of humour.

In return, we offer:

- A regular, tax-free income
- 24/7 support from professionals, giving you full confidence
- Excellent ongoing training that fits around your life
- We keep children local, which gives them the best start

Knowing that you have helped a child during a very difficult time in their life is something that stays with you forever.
Marie, Foster Carer

**Call us on
01908 253206**



www.mkcounciljobs.org.uk/foster

