The Committee’s terms of reference are:
- Pre-decision scrutiny of all Policy Framework and other major policy documents within the Committee's remit.
- The investigation of under-performing areas within the Committee's remit.
- The identification of future policy requirements and issues, either with Cabinet or independently within the Committee’s remit.

Consideration of the Council’s Priorities
27 July 2004
- That the spokespersons meet to plan the Committee's work programme.
- That the ten items listed at the meeting be used as a starting point:
  1. The development of a long term Capital Programme.
  2. Medium and long-term property strategy and management.
  3. Charging policy.
  4. Council back office functions including establishment and salary control, and debt management.
  5. Organisational re-engineering and service delivery.
  7. The Council's legal and other relations with developers.
  9. The relationship of these initiatives to the medium term corporate planning and financial strategy.
  10. Impact studies in appropriate areas

Draft Community Strategy
27 July 2004
- That it is written in a style that uses too much local government and consultancy jargon and is, therefore, inappropriate as a document for the community of Milton Keynes.
- That the needs and aspirations of the people of Milton Keynes should be more prominent within the document, otherwise it may appear that, despite the wide consultation that has taken place, the views of the community had been ignored and a strategy ‘imposed' upon them from above.
- That Councillors are the elected representatives of the people of Milton Keynes whom they meet regularly through casework and canvassing. Thus they have had considerable experience of considering and promoting community strategies as Milton Keynes has grown over the last 30 years. Due weight should be given to this experience in the process of drawing up and approving the current Community Strategy for the next 30 years.
27 October 2004
- The Draft Community Strategy was endorsed for submission to the Cabinet subject to editorial revision, clarification of the nature of associated performance indicators, the possibility of enhanced funding from English Partnerships so that they could intervene proactively, the full involvement of the Local Strategic Partnership, a clearer reference to impending population growth and some sense of a vision for Milton Keynes.

Final Report of Central Milton Keynes Review Group
27 July 2004
- That the following final recommendations arising from the work of the Central Milton Keynes Review Panel be forwarded to Cabinet:
Structure and Planning

- That the Central Milton Keynes Project Board should retain a clear identity from the new Milton Keynes Partnership Committee while developing a close relationship with it on the basis of agreed terms of engagement and protocols.
- That urgent consideration be given to the process by which the re-generation of all existing towns and estates within the city is related to the expansion of Central Milton Keynes so that long term development can be appropriately co-ordinated and a one-stop shop for the whole of Milton Keynes presented to the potential investor.
- That current arrangements for meetings between English Partnerships and the Development Control Committee be enhanced by the involvement of the Central Milton Keynes Project Board, officers of the Joint Venture, and the new Partnership Committee, thus allowing informal advice on likely pitfalls to be made available to officers at an early stage.
- That it be remembered that there is now significant development in Central Milton Keynes and that the implementation of new proposals will have to be sensitive to the impact that they will have on already existing buildings, businesses and residents.
- That further investigation be undertaken of the potential for strategic infrastructure contracts to be used for the benefit of Milton Keynes, possibly brokered through the Regional Growth Area Board.
- That the means of offering property companies a tangible recognition of their contribution to the centre should be investigated, where this significantly exceeds the normal expectations of the planning obligations system.

Life in the City Centre

- That the Council give full consideration with its partners to the proposals for an architecturally distinguished Civic Hub incorporating a first stop shop and expressive of the confidence, inclusiveness, dignity, warmth and space associated with Milton Keynes.
- That the plans for new further and higher educational opportunities in Milton Keynes be considered alongside those for the city centre.
- That in line with current Milton Keynes council policy, full provision for adequate social housing be made in Central Milton Keynes.
- That whilst recognising the difficulty of achieving this, a specific effort be made to build up an alternative - and cheaper - commercial sector which will take into account the likely purchasing power of students or residents of affordable housing.
- That the current linkages be significantly widened so as to appear less daunting and dangerous, that they also incorporate cycle routes, and that they lead directly into built up areas.
- That the programme of events being planned by the Parks Trust is integrated with those of the Central Milton Keynes Management Company so that both can be marketed together.
- That urgent consideration is given by the Project Board to the social and cultural infrastructure of Central Milton Keynes including the provision of play space for both resident children and visitors.
- That a long term funding commitment is made from the Joint Venture budget to a limited number of additional posts to build capacity within the voluntary sector.

Transport

- That consideration be given to specific improvements in current transport arrangements affecting Central Milton Keynes as follows:
  - in the short term better signage and in the medium term improved communication through technology to provide real time information about buses from the station to Central Milton Keynes;
  - enhanced late night transport services out of Central Milton Keynes; and
  - linkages between the city centre and the Grand Union Canal.
- That, similarly, consideration be given to the relationship between the park and ride facility to be developed at the stadium, and transport into Central Milton Keynes.
- That the issue of effective transport along Midsummer Boulevard East be considered alongside the opportunity to pedestrianise one of its carriageways while retaining the other for bus and taxi use.
- That the need to ensure sufficient car parking spaces for the longer-term future be recognised notwithstanding the plans for enhanced public transport, together with the importance of minimising the loss of spaces in the short term while development is taking place.
- That early consultations be held with pedestrians and cyclists so as to achieve defined, direct and continuous routes through the centre as well as to and from the various bridges into the centre, and at street level.
### Conclusion

- That the Council be kept abreast of development issues as they arise in Central Milton Keynes including the organisation of a full briefing for all members on the current plans in relation to the EDAW Framework proposals of 2001.

### The Role of Parishes and Town Councils

**29 September 2004**

- This was an open meeting of representatives from Milton Keynes parish and town councils following which an edited version of the transcript of the meeting was circulated to parishes for their comments as a way of taking the discussion forward.

**29 March 2005**

- That the Council's commitment to the development of the role and responsibilities of Parish and Town Councils be re-affirmed.
- That the opportunity be taken to devolve further functions and services to those Parish and Town Councils willing to accept them.
- That having regard to the concerns expressed by some Parish and Town Councils about the proposed Parish Charter, the Cabinet be recommended to negotiate with them on an individual basis so as to define the terms of their relationship.
- That a further report on progress be made to the Committee in six months’ time.

### Corporate Priorities and the Medium Term Plan

**29 September 2004**

- A report was received on the Council's Medium Term Corporate and Financial Strategy which would be considered again at the start of the 2006 - 2009 cycle in April 2005.

**29 March 2005**

- That the Committee be consulted on the following planning phases of the Medium Term Plan for 2005-2009:
  
  (a) Stage 1: Strategic Importance.
  (b) Stage 2: Cost and Performance Analysis.
  (c) Stage 3: Cabinet Agreement of Cash Limits.
  (d) Stage 4: Update of Options.
  (e) Stage 5: Budget Challenge Process.
  (f) Stage 5: Public Budget Consultations.

- That the Cabinet be recommended to adopt the following as the Council’s Corporate Priorities for 2006-2009:
  
  (a) Improving services that are not serving people well.
  (b) Improving school standards and the skills base.
  (c) Improving the environment.
  (d) Promoting the independence of older people.
  (e) Improving public transport.
  (f) Providing affordable housing for those in need.
  (g) Improving community leadership with partners.
  (h) Promoting social and multi-cultural inclusion.
  (i) Combating deprivation through community regeneration.
  (j) With the Primary Care Trust, promoting effective public health.

- That the Cabinet be recommended to retain the use of the categories 'Essential', ‘Advisable’ and ‘Desirable’ within the Medium Term Plan's accompanying matrix so as to ensure a properly robust analysis of the choices to be made.
**Civic Hub**  
27 October 2004

- That the Committee endorses the proposals in the 2001 Central Milton Keynes Framework for a Civic Hub, located between the Point and Food Hall
- That the Committee envisages such a Civic Hub incorporating a First Stop Shop that might include other public and voluntary bodies as well as the Council
- That the same building would include a flexible suite of meeting rooms that could be used by the Council, configured to various sizes, facilitate conferences and house relevant services if necessary
- That the building(s) comprising the Civic Hub should be architecturally distinguished, spacious and inclusive and should be set in a square or similar environment and include commercial ventures, restaurants etc
- That buildings comprising the Civic Hub must be constructed to the highest possible environmental standards, should exceed current legislative requirements, and should aspire to be a world leader in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability
- That, with English Partnerships, the Council should explore commercial and other funding for the project so that its capital cost and potential running costs can be set up on the basis of no net cost to the council tax payer
- That the project should be subject to the widest possible consultation, resulting in an international design competition

**Property Management Strategy**  
23 November 2004

The Committee considered a report on property management of the Council's holdings in CMK to be completed later in the year by a second report on Council property outside CMK.

29 March 2005

- That the other policy development committees be requested to consider the following suggestions from the Corporate Policy Development Committee concerning the Council's Property Management Strategy:
  (a) That as flexible as possible a property management strategy be adopted so as to permit opportunities to be seized as they arose.
  (b) That the Council's Central Milton Keynes (CMK) presence be consolidated on the Civic Offices and Saxon Court.
  (c) That the Council's non-CMK presence be based on Synergy Park.
  (d) That staff re-location be implemented sensitively on this basis.
  (e) That a review be undertaken in consultation with Members and Housing Officers, regarding the best accommodation arrangements for the Council's Housing Offices.

**Council wide Revenue Budget 2005-06 onwards**  
25 January 2005

- That the Committee endorse the draft 2005/06 Budget for submission to the Cabinet, particularly in relation to the Chief Executive's Department budget and to its implications on the 3-year medium term plan

**Capital Programme 2005-06 to 2009-10**  
25 January 2005

- That the Committee endorses the draft 2005/06 to 2009/10 Capital Programme for submission to the Cabinet, particularly in relation to the Chief Executive’s Department budget and to its implications on the 3-year medium term plan

**Implementing Electronic Government**  
2 March 2005

The Committee received an update on the implementation of electronic government in respect of the delivery of Council services and customer relationship management
**AccessMK & Impact:MK Updates**

*2 March 2005*

The Committee received reports on the introduction of MKDirect and its impact on the 'back office' workings of the Council and on the installation of SAP software by HBS with effect from 1 April 2005. It was agreed that a progress report be included in the Committee’s work programme for September 2005.

**Future of Local Government**

*2 March 2005*

A report was made on a series of recent Government discussion papers on the future of local government. The Committee resolved:

- To conduct an investigation into the most appropriate governance arrangements to meet the needs of Milton Keynes' citizens over the next 5 - 10 years.
- That the Chair and spokespersons be authorised to agree terms of reference and a detailed work plan.
- That Members recommend additional witnesses or sources of evidence where appropriate.
- That the full Committee conduct the investigation over 3 or 4 meetings with a view to completing a report in the early autumn.

**Section 38 Procedures**

*29 March 2005*

- That the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet, subject to consultation with the Highways Adoption Team where appropriate:
  
  (a) That as flexible as possible a property management strategy be adopted so as to permit opportunities to be seized as they arose.
  
  (b) That English Partnerships be asked to introduce into its competitive tender procedure a clause requiring 'evidence of previous good stewardship' by developers as a condition of being awarded a tender.
  
  (c) That, in consultation with the Council, English Partnerships be invited to establish a list of firms to whom tenders will not be awarded until their on-site behaviour improves.
  
  (d) That no developer should be awarded a contract by English Partnerships unless they have given a commitment to enter into and sign a Section 38 agreement prior to their commencement of work on site.
  
  (e) That, where problems - including non completion of a Section 38 agreement - are notified during the progress of a development, English Partnerships should act using their existing powers to refuse permission to the relevant developer to sell completed houses.

- That the following recommendations, with regard to public open space, be made to the Cabinet and English Partnerships as appropriate:
  
  (a) English Partnerships and the Council be recommended to introduce a Bond procedure analogous to that in place for highways.
  
  (b) The Council undertake responsibility for landscaping and play areas during the life of a development on an analogous basis to waste collection with the costs being recouped from the developer via the commuted lump sum procedure.
  
  (c) There is agreement by all agencies to maintain jointly adopted standards on quality of open space / play area provision.
  
  (d) The Council seek agreement between itself, the Partnership Committee and English Partnerships as to which body has the powers and capacity to enforce the provision of permitted open space.
  
  (e) Open space should only be offered for adoption to the Council and the Parks Trust in the first instance.
  
  (f) There should be agreement on which types of open space should be adopted by the Council and the Parks Trust.
  
  (g) The Council and the Parks Trust should agree a common formula for calculating maintenance costs associated with open space, and a common approach for offering small areas of open space and play areas to Parish and Town Councils via the Council.
(h) More use be made of Advance Payment Notices where developers own the development sites on which they are working.

(i) The Internal Auditor review current procedures within the Council for recording and making available information about all adoptions on a common database under the GIS system, and for the relevant Council services taking on responsibility for these, as part of a wider ‘resource map’ which would illustrate graphically those assets owned by the Council, parish councils, the Parks Trust or developers, so as to clarify their respective spheres of responsibility.

(j) The Council raise these issues with the other three south-east growth areas with a view to a joint approach to the Government about the need for a tougher development control and road traffic framework to ensure the quality of life of incoming residents and their families.