



# Milton Keynes Council Corporate Plan 2012-16

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# Introduction

This Corporate Plan sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to achieve our collective ambitions for Milton Keynes.

In developing this plan we have sought to articulate a vision and outcomes that will continue to make Milton Keynes unique and special and a great place to live for current and future residents. The Corporate Plan is an important vehicle for delivering the ambitions of the Core Strategy (which contains the most detailed articulation of future plans for our Borough) and other key strategies.

The Corporate Plan contains priority actions for the short-medium term (2-4 years) which we will focus on to deliver significant improvements in the outcomes for local people. We will review on a regular basis to report progress and measure outcomes.

The Corporate Plan brings together the high level content of existing major strategies and also draws on recent local assessments and consultations to identify future priorities. It is shaped by analyses of information about our fast changing community and its context, which can be found in 'Milton Keynes: What is shaping the vision', at Annex A.

Each year we conduct a citizen's survey to ensure we keep in touch with residents' views. The 2013 survey asked local people about their communities.

- Asked "What is most important in making somewhere a good place to live", residents most frequently responded:
  - Health services
  - Level of crime
  - Clean streets
- Asked "What most needs improving", residents most frequently responded:
  - Roads and pavement repairs
  - Activities for teenagers
  - Public transport (in Milton Keynes and nearby)

The Corporate Plan was developed within the context of a rapidly changing national policy framework. Major changes have taken place in health with responsibility for Public Health moving to the local authority, the election in November 2012 of Police and Crime Commissioners, and the introduction of welfare reform.

For Milton Keynes as a fast growing place, a sound spatial planning framework is especially important and we must ensure that we are able to respond effectively to quality and sustainable development proposals. The Core Strategy was adopted in July 2013 and will guide the future development of the Borough, including a new strategic land allocation for around 2,900 homes in the south east of the city as part of proposals for 28,000 new homes and 42,000 new jobs.

Our family of 110 schools educate some 43,000 local children and young people. Milton Keynes Council benefits from a strong relationship with our diverse school community and it is this partnership that is delivering year on year improvement in results.

The 2011 Census results were published during 2012 and 2013; Milton Keynes continues to be one of the fastest growing places in the UK. The key headlines from the Census are contained within Annex A of the plan.

The Corporate Plan has been refreshed so that the vision themes and outcomes are aligned to meet existing and the new challenges ahead.

The work we need to do continues to be in the context of a challenging financial backdrop where the expectation is that all public sector partners need to do more with less. The Corporate Plan has been shaped by the recent Comprehensive Spending Review settlement that confirms continuing reductions in Central Government funding through to at least 2018/19. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy produces the framework for resource allocation decisions that will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

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# 1. A Vision for Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes: 'Where we think differently, create opportunity and believe in people'.

Milton Keynes has grown from a collection of small towns and villages into a significant sub-regional centre in less than 40 years. Outside the 'city', the surrounding rural area has attractive countryside with a range of villages and small towns, which provide contrast to the urban area.

Urban Milton Keynes has been built with future growth in mind and is regarded as the largest and most successful British New Town. It has a distinctive grid system and extensive green public space. It is a place fuelled by change and strong aspirations. Nothing has ever stood still in Milton Keynes; this is what makes us different. The ability to create our own future and manage change allows us to pursue new strategies and respond to the needs of investors and changing economic and social circumstances faster than older, more established cities in the UK and Europe. We have a strong track record of planning and delivery; we can do, have done and will do.

Our vision is:

- To ensure Milton Keynes is the premier 'can do' place of the 21st century. The city, together with the rural parts of our Borough, will continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, learn, shop and relax.
- To secure sustainable housing and employment growth that is advantageous for Milton Keynes subject to the timely provision of infrastructure and proactive regeneration to ensure no areas are left behind and that a two-speed city does not result.
- That people and firms will want to move here and stay here, and visitors will want to come here and come back often. Milton Keynes will have a compelling "offer" that includes rising standards of living and a safe and good quality of life for all.
- To create homes and neighbourhoods in new areas or through regeneration that help make our compelling "offer" a reality.
- That our residents have access to all the services they need and have the support to access opportunities and enjoy a healthy and good quality of life. Above all we must ensure that Milton Keynes offers job and career opportunities for all through an enterprising and thriving economy.

The job of the Council, with its partners, is to make this vision a reality. There is much to celebrate about MK but there are also things that need to change and improve.

Through the Corporate Plan we aim to set out our shared ambitions for Milton Keynes and to improve those elements that do not meet the high aspirations we all share for our existing and new communities.

In a modern setting, where the development and provision of services is open to a wide variety of providers and solutions, we will seek to ensure high quality and

efficient services through all the means at our disposal. This will include influence, persuasion, policy-making and the commissioning or direct provision of services.

The Council will listen to and work with everyone to make Milton Keynes a great place for all.

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# Corporate Plan 2012-16 Vision, Themes and Outcomes

Level 1:  
Corporate Plan  
Vision

**Milton Keynes**  
Where we think differently, create opportunity and believe in people

Level 2:  
Themes

**WORLD CLASS MK**      **LIVING IN MK**      **WORKING IN MK**      **VISITING MK**      **CLEANER, GREENER SAFER, HEALTHIER MK**

Level 3:  
Outcomes

<p><b>Milton Keynes will be recognised internationally for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its distinctive and flexible urban design</li> <li>• Being a leading city for new approaches and technologies</li> <li>• Being a premier sporting city</li> <li>• Being an exemplar for building and supporting new communities</li> <li>• Its distinctive arts and heritage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Everyone, in Milton Keynes will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be satisfied with their area as a place to live</li> <li>• Enjoy happy and fulfilled lives</li> <li>• Be safe from harm and neglect</li> <li>• Achieve their full potential</li> <li>• Experience choice and control</li> <li>• Enjoy personal dignity and respect</li> </ul>	<p><b>Milton Keynes will have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mix of businesses that give a thriving and resilient economy</li> <li>• High levels of inward investment and business growth</li> <li>• Excellent opportunities to access training to improve skills</li> <li>• High levels of employment opportunities for current and potential residents</li> </ul>	<p><b>Milton Keynes will have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong reputation as a visitor destination, nationally and internationally</li> <li>• A strong leisure, retail and cultural offer, including a safe and vibrant night time economy</li> <li>• Excellent transport links to all parts of the UK</li> <li>• Efficient, accessible and integrated internal transport</li> </ul>	<p><b>Residents of Milton Keynes will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be healthy and have a sense of well-being</li> <li>• Occupy fit for purpose housing that meets individual needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Milton Keynes will be a place which:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is safe and with a low fear of crime</li> <li>• Is clean and has high quality open, green public space and buildings</li> <li>• Minimises waste</li> <li>• Is committed to implementation of a low carbon agenda</li> </ul>
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Cross-cutting priorities and activity to enable delivery of outcomes

**Agile Council**  
Delivering continuous improvement, ongoing transformation and efficiencies

**Equalities and Diversity**  
Improve the way we engage, think, plan and act to deliver equality and accessibility for everyone, every day

## **2. Themes, Outcomes and Priorities for Milton Keynes**

Outcomes have been established to give focus to delivering our vision. The outcomes have been brought together within a framework of themes to help communicate our ambitions for Milton Keynes. All public services contribute to the themes and outcomes, as do community and voluntary sector organisations and businesses.

To provide focus in the medium term a series of priority actions have been proposed for the next 2 to 4 years. Progress will be monitored regularly against them and reported to Members, partners and citizens.

### **2.1 Theme - World Class MK**

#### **Ambition**

We aim to increase the international and national standing of Milton Keynes through a focus on distinctive issues that give definition to our “offer”. These include a dynamic economy, thriving communities and a safe and high quality environment.

We will make links with key cities, companies and other organisations around the world to seek out inspirational ideas, to share best practice and to make strategic links, thus ensuring Milton Keynes’ central place on the world stage.

Milton Keynes is growing in terms of its population and economy. We must continue to build on our strengths and unique qualities so that businesses and people are attracted to live and work here as well as stay.

Civil society - the voluntary and community sector - has a key role to play in building and supporting our communities.

#### **Outcomes**

Milton Keynes will be recognised internationally for:

- Its distinctive and flexible urban design
- Being a leading city for new approaches and technologies
- Being a premier sporting city
- Being an exemplar for building and supporting new communities
- Its distinctive arts and heritage

#### **Priorities**

- Carry forward the thinking reflected in the Central Milton Keynes Framework and Central Milton Keynes Business Alliance Neighbourhood Plan.

- Establish exemplar projects to position Milton Keynes as a leading Smart City and low carbon economy
- Enable Next Generation Access broadband and improve digital infrastructure for residents and businesses
- Foster the growth of a thriving knowledge led economy
- Expand university education and research in Milton Keynes
- Deliver projects that establish Milton Keynes as an International Sporting City
- Direct resources to regenerate places and to support people to increase their prosperity and quality of life
- Enable, support and celebrate a flourishing civil society and voluntary and community sector

## **2.2 Theme – Living in MK**

### **Ambition**

We wish to create a Milton Keynes “offer” that articulates those things that make the Borough of Milton Keynes so attractive to existing and new residents. We will be guided by this offer, in both new areas and regeneration areas.

All those living in Milton Keynes should enjoy happy and fulfilled lives, and be safe from harm and neglect and achieve their full potential. We aim to have strong communities with a sense of pride. People in urban and rural areas should be satisfied with Milton Keynes as a place to live and be effectively supported through high quality and efficient services, including those they develop and manage themselves.

The work across all the themes will aim to achieve this. We must continually review how well we are meeting the ambitions and needs of local citizens and work hard to do better where we fall short.

### **Outcomes**

Everyone, in Milton Keynes will:

- Be satisfied with their area as a place to live
- Enjoy happy and fulfilled lives
- Be safe from harm and neglect
- Achieve their full potential
- Experience choice and control
- Enjoy personal dignity and respect

## Priorities

- Articulate the Milton Keynes “Offer” – the key things that make Milton Keynes unique and special and a great place to live for current and future residents – and implement plans to improve those aspects of Milton Keynes that are not yet consistent with the aspirations of the “Offer”.
- Encourage the building of a mix of sizes, types and tenures of homes, including social rented accommodation, that will meet the needs and aspirations of Milton Keynes’ existing residents and the new residents we wish to attract.
- Raise active participation and the opportunities to take part in sport, leisure and cultural activity and volunteering
- Support the project to deliver the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway.
- Encourage local communities and the voluntary and community sector to become involved in managing community assets
- Develop and maintain strong local partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people
- Challenge all schools, settings and services to be outstanding, enabling them to take the lead in driving up standards and safeguarding children and only intervening when outcomes are not good enough
- Develop and maintain effective services and interventions that enable those children and young people who face barriers to participation to successfully overcome them.
- Develop and maintain effective services and interventions that keep the most vulnerable children and young people safe and prevent them from experiencing additional difficulties
- Develop cost effective models of support and care for vulnerable people that ensure they regain and maintain independence
- Deliver choice and control for individuals requiring support by providing preventative, community based approaches and outcome focused personalised care and support

## **2.3 Theme – Working in MK**

### **Ambition**

We aim to bring people, jobs and industries to Milton Keynes to improve the strength and resilience of the local economy. We will target in particular those business sectors that will help achieve the economic mix we believe is right for our future prosperity.

We also aim to improve the skills and opportunities of all people in Milton Keynes and help them into work in addition to attracting and retaining businesses to provide those opportunities.

### **Outcomes**

Milton Keynes will have:

- A mix of businesses that give a thriving and resilient economy
- High levels of inward investment and business growth
- Excellent opportunities to access training to improve skills
- High levels of employment opportunities for current and potential residents
- Support that ensures businesses and residents benefit from a strong local economy

### **Priorities**

- Encourage inward investment in target sectors and provide support and advice to businesses moving/recently established in Milton Keynes
- Create an environment that will support business start ups and growth, including a full range of business support services
- Increase everyone's career opportunities by improving the overall skills and qualifications profile of the resident population
- Establish Central Milton Keynes as a Business Neighbourhood Plan "Frontrunner"
- Ensure businesses and residents are supported, through the retention and growth of businesses, to maintain a strong local economy

## **2.4 Theme – Visiting MK**

### **Ambition**

We aim to make Milton Keynes a premier visitor destination with a safe and effective transport system which is easily accessible regionally, nationally and internationally. We want people to come here from farther afield; we want them to visit more places here, stay longer, enjoy a safe and vibrant night time experience, spend more, enthuse about Milton Keynes when they get home, and come back soon.

Promoting the cultural and entertainment offer including a biennial International Arts Festival feature as a priority. Other attractions including the National Bowl, Xscape, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes Museum, Willen Lake, Emberton Park, The Stables, the Theatre and Gallery and a wider range of voluntary arts and heritage organisations continue to be promoted to attract visitors.

### **Outcomes**

Milton Keynes will have:

- A strong reputation as a visitor destination, nationally and internationally
- A strong leisure, retail and cultural offer, including a safe and vibrant night time economy
- Excellent transport links to all parts of the UK
- Efficient, accessible and integrated internal transport

### **Priorities**

- Promote and market Milton Keynes and its attractions to visitors
- Improve services and attractions for visitors
- Stage a biennial International Arts Festival
- Deliver quality and sustainable public transport initiatives and information
- Continue to improve points of entry to Milton Keynes

## **2.5 Theme – Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Healthier MK**

### **Ambition**

We aim to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities and work with partners to reduce crime and disorder to improve the quality of life in Milton Keynes. Improving the range and quality of housing and enhancing the open green spaces which are a unique feature of the urban area are also outcomes from this theme.

### **Outcomes**

Residents of Milton Keynes will:

- Be healthy and have a sense of wellbeing
- Occupy fit for purpose housing that meets individual needs.

Milton Keynes will be a place which:

- Is safe and with a low fear of crime
- Is clean and has high quality open, green public space and buildings
- Minimises waste
- Is committed to the implementation of a low carbon agenda

### **Priorities**

- Improve the quality of properties of all tenure and reduce the numbers of people in temporary accommodation
- Develop an affordable, sustainable and high quality housing market
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime CW confirmed OK
- Develop a Residual Waste Treatment Facility for the Borough
- Maintain, protect and enhance the open spaces and Country Parks
- Improve the health and wellbeing of all Milton Keynes citizens and communities
- Work with health partners to ensure strong local joint commissioning and integrated health and social care services

## 2.6 Agile Council

As a result of the Organisational Transformation Programme, the Council has moved to a new pitch of efficiency and productivity, with a fit for purpose management structure and effective corporate processes. The Council is well positioned to deliver continuous improvement, ongoing transformation and even greater savings into the future, focusing initially on further cost reduction, alternative ways of delivering services and acting entrepreneurially to reduce demand and secure alternative income.

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### **3. Delivering the vision**

Strong leadership and partnership working will be needed to deliver the aspirations we have for Milton Keynes. We work with many partners to achieve improved outcomes.

The activities that underpin the delivery of the priority actions outlined in this plan are reflected in strategies, plans, programmes and projects including partnership plans.

Two arenas where partnership working is of growing importance are the region and the neighbourhood.

The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) was established in 2011; it brings together businesses and local government together with universities and colleges, community groups, social enterprises in Corby, Kettering, Daventry, South Northamptonshire, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale. Together these partners are working closely with Government to support inward investment, innovation, economic growth, new enterprise and job creation and infrastructure delivery. The council is a key contributor to this partnership, which significantly support the priorities of our Economic Development Strategy. The Leader of the Council sits on the board of SEMLEP.

At the Neighbourhood level, Parish and Town Councils deliver support and services for people in their Parishes throughout the Borough. There are 41 established Parish and Town Councils and 6 Parish Meetings (smaller communities which meet at least once a year). The Parishes contribute to many aspects of governance in Milton Keynes through their own functions, and cross-cutting inputs on a variety of bodies and boards. The Milton Keynes Parishes' Protocol and the Localism agenda mean that Parish, Town and Community Councils have an opportunity for a greatly-widened service delivery role in Milton Keynes. The Council's Community Asset Transfer Programme has enabled some Parish and Town Councils to take on the day to day running of community facilities.

#### **Measuring Progress**

The Corporate Plan reflects key strategies and plans of the Council and partners. These include performance measures against which we track our progress.

The Corporate Plan is supported by Service Plans that capture the actions to deliver the priorities including measures (indicators) and accountability.

The Council's Service Group Plans and Medium-Term Financial Strategy will be refreshed in the context of the Corporate Plan and its delivery. Quarterly corporate performance reports will monitor progress and be reported to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.

#### **Equality & Accessibility**

The Council has a clear equality vision, which is: "Improve the way we engage, think, plan and act to deliver equality and accessibility for everyone, every day". This vision articulates the way the council works on equality; as it engages with local people, thinks about different people's needs, plans the way it works and acts to deliver quality services. Equality is fundamental to the Corporate Plan:

- Acting across all council services and plans to make Milton Keynes a place where opportunities are created and barriers to achievement are removed.
- Involving everyone, everyday; not a separate vision or plan for one group or another. Although mindful of the equality-act-protected characteristics, it is a universal theme that applies everyday.

Equality objectives, which appear in the Council's Equality Scheme, articulate how the council will judge progress towards this cross-cutting theme. These are reported upon annually.

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## Milton Keynes: What is shaping the vision?

Milton Keynes is one of the fastest growing places in the UK, and our population has quadrupled from 1967 to 2011. The facts and figures below, alongside the results of a recent citizen's survey and budget consultation have helped to inform our outcomes and priorities framework.

### Demography

- The scale and pace of development in Milton Keynes is unique in the UK, with around 4,000 new residents welcomed each year. Since it was designated a New Town in 1967, the Borough's population has grown from 60,000 to 249,900, with development plans indicating an overall population in 2026 of almost 300,000.
- The population growth from 2010 to 2026 in England is estimated at 12.9%. This compares with our growth target of 23.1% for Milton Keynes. The growth in young people will be strong and exceed that observed nationally. For example the school age population is expected to grow by over a third in Milton Keynes, compared to a 13% increase in the school age population nationally. 5-16 year olds will make up 16.8% of the Milton Keynes total population in 2026 compared to 14.4% for England as a whole.
- Milton Keynes has had a younger age profile than England and a relatively small older population. By 2026 Milton Keynes will still have fewer older people than the national average but many more than today. The forecast percentage increase for over 60's in Milton Keynes by 2026 is 70% compared to national increase of 32%. The forecast for over 80s is growth of over 100% - from 7,200 people to over 14,400.
- The population is becoming ethnically more diverse through inward migration and the growth of our established black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. The figures for Milton Keynes suggest 26.1% of the total population were from an ethnic group other than 'white British'. The comparable estimate for England is 20.2%. The population diversity will continue to grow strongly. The 2013 schools census found that BME pupils comprise 35.3% of the overall Milton Keynes pupil population (compared to 25.4% in England under the school census 2010). The Black African group is the largest ethnic group in Milton Keynes schools, accounting for 9.6% of pupils. The next largest is the Mixed group at 6.3%.
- Milton Keynes is a relatively prosperous place and has a local authority rank of 211 out of 326 in the national index of deprivation 2010, where 1 is the most deprived. This is similar to the 2007 rank of 212. There are, however, significant concentrations of deprivation within the borough. 18 of the 139 lower super output areas in Milton Keynes are within the 20% most deprived in England, compared to 15 in the 2007 index. This continues the trend, seen between the 2004 and 2007 indices, of increasing numbers in the most and in the least deprived quintiles of the national population.

### Health

- There is a strong relationship between deprivation and ill health, demonstrated by the lower levels of life expectancy in wards with the lowest levels of income. The life expectancy gap over the period 2007 – 2011 between Woughton ward – the ward with

the lowest life expectancy at birth – and the Milton Keynes average is 4.74 years. This gap has shown a gradual, but consistent, decrease over the past 5 years.

- Life expectancy at birth continues to rise; the 2008-2010 analysis showed Milton Keynes' results were similar to the England and Wales average: Life expectancy at birth for men in Milton Keynes stands at 78.1 years and is ranked 215 (where 1 is the highest) out of 324 Local authorities. Life expectancy at age 65 is 18.0 years (rank 213). For women, life expectancy at birth remains at 82.2 years, and is ranked 220. Female life expectancy at age 65 is 20.5 years (rank 225).
- The principal health issues are cardiovascular disease, alcohol misuse and obesity. The leading causes of death are cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease. Cardiovascular disease and cancers account for the majority of premature deaths in those under 75 and are responsible for over 5,500 potential years of life lost every year in the Milton Keynes population.

## Education

- Outcomes are improving against an increasing number of national measures for attainment and progress. Improving attainment for children and young people from some vulnerable groups is an on-going challenge.
- Pupil performance and results for 11-year-olds continue to improve, 77% of pupils in MK achieved level 4 or above in all of reading, writing and mathematics compared to 75% in 2012; this compares to an England average of 75% for 2013.
- Examination results in 2013 for 16-year-olds improved significantly, and Milton Keynes has now exceeded the England average for 5+ GCSEs, including English and maths, for the first time.
- 79% of schools in Milton Keynes are now rated 'good or better' at most recent Ofsted inspection – this compares to the England average of 78%
- Participation in learning by young people of academic age 17 continues to increase – an average of 90.7% in learning for the academic year ending Aug 2012 increased to an average of 92.9% in learning for the academic year ending Aug 2013.

## Economy

- Milton Keynes is well connected to national strategic transport networks. Almost 23 million people live within a 90 minute journey of Milton Keynes. This makes it an attractive location for businesses that require access to markets of a significant size, including retail and leisure.
- In 2008 Milton Keynes attracted 53,000 in-commuters and had 18,000 out-commuters giving a net in-commuting of 35,000 people. This compares with a net in-commuting figure of 16,000 in 2001 and reveals the growing strength of Milton Keynes as a sub-regional centre. It is estimated that 9% of the working age population in Milton Keynes work from home.
- In 2009, the Department for Transport Temporo flows indicated net-flows of 25,000, thus, 10,000 fewer commuters than the Annual Population Survey figure in 2008. The 2011 Census of Population data will confirm the commuting patterns at the end of 2013.

- Milton Keynes ranked highly in the Cities Outlook (2011-2013) annual reports which chart the economic status of the 64 largest cities in Great Britain. It was identified as one of the top five strongest city economies in the UK with strong prospects for economic growth.
- Experian research figures show Milton Keynes heading a top ten of prosperous town and cities, in terms of growth in jobs and output in the next five years, and in the manufacturing, financial and business services and retail sectors. Also, analysis by research consultancy Local Futures in partnership with the Municipal Journal ranked Milton Keynes as the number one location to establish a business.
- The rate of economic growth has not always been consistently strong. In Gross Value Added (GVA) terms, Milton Keynes was the fastest growing economy in the South East between 1997 and 2003 but reported one of the lowest average growth rates in the South East between 2002 and 2006. MK GVA rose to £6.9 billion in 2008 and only fell slightly during the recession in 2009 to £6.8 but recovered to £7.1 billion and £7.3 billion in 2010 and 2011 respectively.
- The level of unemployment tends to be higher than the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership area and the South East average but is similar to neighbouring urban centres. The structure of the economy including the high private sector proportion means that the economy is more sensitive to changes than other economies. As a result, it is typically first into recession and first to come out of recession.
- The number of business units (businesses using premises) in Milton Keynes has risen from 8,065 in 1998 to 11,150 in 2012, an increase in the number of business units of 38%.
- Employment in all sectors of the economy in Milton Keynes rose from 113,000 employees in 1998 to 142,600 in 2008, a 26% increase. The recession in 2009 witnessed a decrease in the employment level to 137,200, but rose to 139,500 in 2010 and 142,400 in 2011.
- Milton Keynes has a strong and established track record of attracting both UK and foreign investment as well as providing an environment that supports additional investment within its existing business base. Many companies and organisations have their headquarters in Milton Keynes. Network Rail is a good example of a national company which relocated its operations headquarters to Milton Keynes, bringing over 3,000 jobs to the local economy. International companies headquartered in MK include Santander, Volkswagen, Coca-Cola and others.

## Adult Skills

- Skills levels in Milton Keynes have lagged behind national and regional averages, a position that is changing. The proportion of Milton Keynes residents of working age with high level skills (NVQ4+) rose from 29.3% in 2008 to 33.3% in 2012 (compared to a figure of 32.8% for SEMLEP).
- Performance in the technical level skills (NVQ3+) in Milton Keynes improved from 51.9% in 2011 to 54.8% in 2012 compared to 53.6% in SEMLEP. There has also been an improvement in the proportion of Milton Keynes residents of working age without any qualifications which fell from 10.4% in 2008, to 8.9% in 2010 and 7.1% in 2012. The 2009 figure for England was 12.3%.

- Almost one third of the unemployed people in Milton Keynes looking for work since April 2013 were seeking jobs in the elementary (low or no skill) occupations. In 2010/11 there were 1,980 Apprenticeship starts and 880 Apprenticeship completions in Milton Keynes. In 2012 there were 1,200 Apprenticeship starts and provisional figures for August 2011 to January 2012 show completions at 400 Apprentices. The performance picture on Apprenticeships in Milton Keynes is improving.

## Housing

- Milton Keynes has determined in its Core Strategy that 28,000 new additional homes will be built up to 2026. This represents a figure of some 1,750 homes per year.
- Milton Keynes has a higher proportion of adult couples with dependent children households compared with England. This group represents around 23.4% of the total number of households compared with 19.3% in England.
- Over half of the current housing stock is detached or semi detached. Terraced housing comprises just over a quarter (27.4%) another third of the total, flats account for 16.2% with 0.9% being converted dwellings rather than purpose built.
- There are an estimated 650 houses in multiple occupation (HMO) which provide a source of affordable accommodation and form a significant part of the private rented housing stock. The 202 licensed HMO's in Milton Keynes are licensed for a total of 1,295 persons.
- 57.7% of all properties across the area are owner occupied and 18.2% private rented. 11.0% of the stock is rented from Milton Keynes Council and a further 7.1% from other registered social landlords. The remaining 6.1% are shared ownership.

## Transport

- Milton Keynes is a regional transport hub with excellent connections to the national strategic transport networks including the M1, A5 and the West Coast Main Line (WCML). Combined with the excellent local transport networks this provides the foundations for a strong economic centre.
- At current rates of growth, there will be a 57% increase in travel demand in the period to 2031<sup>8</sup>. The grid system is one of the strengths of the city but we are now beginning to experience peak hour congestion at junctions. The WCML will be operating at capacity by 2024.
- Annual Bus patronage has increased by around 38% from 6.9 million passengers in 2003/04 to 9.5 million in 2012/13. This shows strong performance when compared to the population growth of 16% in the same period

## Community Safety

- Milton Keynes is continuing to becoming a safer place in which to live and work. All Crime reduced by 1819 reported incidents between 2011/12 and 2012/13, representing a decrease of 8.55%. Between 2010/11 and 2012/13, All Crime reduced by 19.92%.
- Reports of Violence against the Person (non-Domestic Violence related, VAP), have followed the pattern of the previous year in continuing to decline. Between 2011/12 and

2012/13 reports of VAP reduced by 16.16%. The difference between 2010/11 and 2012/13 is a reduction of 39.89%.

- Categorisation of Police recorded Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) was altered in April 2011, making meaningful comparison with earlier years impossible. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 Police recorded ASB experienced a 26.86% reduction. This reduction is also evident in Milton Keynes Council's own ASB recording mechanism, which demonstrates a 22.95% decrease between 2011/12 and 2012/13. Between 2010/11 and 2012/13 council recorded ASB has reduced by 14.47%.
- Shoplifting is one of the few categories to experience an increase in Milton Keynes. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13, Shoplifting increased by 2201 reports, a difference of 11.05%. This is an increase of 16.18% between 2010/11 and 2012/13.

## Spatial Planning/Growth

- There are just over 11,000 registered businesses operating in Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes has one of the highest levels of new enterprises created per year in the country.
- There are sufficient housing sites already identified in the city to meet our urban housing requirements, although the Core Strategy sets a rationale for identifying sites in rural areas and in the urban area, to provide flexibility and contingency to existing supply.
- The housing target is 28,000 homes by 2026 with an average of 1,750 per year.
- In terms of supporting new retail development, growth will be primarily focused on Central Milton Keynes together with the centres of Bletchley, Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford, Olney, Woburn Sands, Wolverton, Westcroft and Kingston. New retail developments are planned to serve new areas of housing development.
- We have a target to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions by 40% by 2020 to help reduce our Carbon Footprint which is one of the highest in the South East.
- The commercial rollout of upgraded broadband infrastructure by BT across most of the urban areas of Milton Keynes is now nearly complete with around 70% of the Borough now having access to superfast broadband. To ensure the continued spread of improved broadband access to the areas not covered by the commercial rollout the Council will invest £2.4m of its own money, in partnership with the private sector, to raise increase accessibility to 95% of premises over the next few years. A procurement using the BDUK government framework is underway and it is anticipated that a contract will be signed with an infrastructure supplier later in summer 2013.
- The older centres (Wolverton and Bletchley), as well as the older estates, have challenges regarding ageing physical infrastructure; particularly as the design life of some of these has been exceeded.
- The city has 8 linear parks that are a unique asset; they provide high quality, continuous open space accessible to all residents. Milton Keynes also has many smaller pockets of open space, often with trees that soften the impact of build development. The open space in the city (40%) compares very favourably with other towns.

## **Key Strategies & Plans**

### **Key High Level Strategies**

Core Strategy July 2013

Economic Development Strategy 2011 - 16

Housing Strategy 2012

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 - 2015

Local Investment Plan June 2013

Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2031

Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 - 2017/18

Regeneration Strategy 2009 - 2012

Safer MK Plan 2011 - 2014

Waste Strategy 2011 - 2020

### **Supporting Strategies/Plans**

Arts Strategy 2010 - 2014

Buckinghamshire and MK Rural Strategy 2008 - 2012

Comprehensive Equality Scheme 2012 - 16

Future Libraries Milton Keynes A Strategic Review of Milton Keynes Libraries and Vision for the Future Full Report

Heritage Strategy 2008 2013

Low Carbon Strategy Action Plan 2010 - 2015

Public Open Space – A Management Framework for Milton Keynes  
Public Access Strategy

## Completed Priorities

- Revise the Central Milton Keynes Framework that guides future development of the city centre
- Take on a leadership role as public health responsibilities are transferred to the Council and develop an approach to reduce health inequalities
- Establish a Health and Wellbeing Board that will work to improve the lives of residents
- Develop cost effective regulatory services

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