



Milton Keynes Local Area Agreement
Closing the Gap

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1. Introduction

As one of the fastest growing regions in Europe we are at the centre of the Milton Keynes/South Midlands growth area, where 34,000 additional dwellings are planned by 2016. However, alongside its economic success the Borough has wards that fall within the most deprived 10% in the UK. Without careful planning growth will only exacerbate the divide and create a *two-speed city*. For this reason the headline of **Closing the Gap** has been chosen for our LAA.

Milton Keynes is an exciting place. We have big ambitions. The city is a key focus for growth in the South East and is set to deliver 71,000 homes by 2031. The growth will bring an additional 100,000 people.

Part of the excitement is the city's existing residents. Their lives and contributions, energy and enthusiasm make the city what it is today. The experience of existing communities must match the best that we will be delivering through growth.

A primary objective therefore of the Milton Keynes Local Area Agreement is to Close the Gap and deliver a high quality of life for all. The LAA builds our ability to strengthen our public services and communities to ensure that we can meet the challenges facing the city.

The LAA is designed to further promote collaboration locally and with Government to address less well performing aspects of the City.

Milton Keynes has a strong partnership which has a clear and distinctive vision set out in the Milton Keynes Community Strategy: Our handbook for Change 2004-2034. The LAA forms the principal delivery plan of that strategy predicated on the vision 'The City that Thinks Differently, Embraces Evolution and Champions Change'

The structure of the agreement enables local stakeholders to develop further their collaboration whilst seeking opportunity from Government to deliver better. The opportunity presented to Government is addressing our problem areas as well as providing even better delivery of the national agenda. The outcomes and targets we have set address the less well performing aspects of delivery and our enabling measures focus on how we can do more of what we do well.

Key issues facing the city include:

- Addressing the socio economic disparities between our older estates and newer more affluent communities.
- Developing a transport system able to accommodate growth and meet environmental and accessibility demands.
- Delivering a mix of housing meets the needs of a changing population and good quality homes are available to all.
- Development of the community ensuring their involvement and cohesion as the City grows and its diversity increases.

- Development and maintenance of a competitive economy which serves the needs of residents and the city's hinterland.

These issues are addressed by the existing strategies and partnerships within the Community Strategy umbrella. They are also reflected in the existing LPSA.

2. The Milton Keynes Perspective

Milton Keynes is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe. It was planned and built with future growth in mind and included existing towns of Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Wolverton and New Bradwell and 13 villages (including Milton Keynes village). About 16% of the population lives in the largely rural area outside the city. This comprises around two-thirds of the borough's territory and includes the towns of Newport Pagnell, Olney and Woburn Sands.

The scale and pace of the city's development is unique in the UK with thousands of new residents welcomed each year. Since new city designation in 1967 the borough's population has grown from 60,000 to 220,000 and is set to continue this growth trajectory for the next 30 years.

The borough's population increase to 320,000 people by 2030. The population of Milton Keynes are not daunted by this growth but are determined that development is of a high quality and that current levels of well-being are maintained, if not improved.

Population growth is mostly through inward migration, with a net annual gain of around 3,000 persons from elsewhere in the UK. In general it seems that the majority of the incomers are young families, although there is a notable gain of people aged 75 and over. In terms of losses, these are mostly people aged 15-19 and, to a lesser extent, post retirement movers. Accompanying the strong growth is a significant level of population movement within the area - typically as families "trade up" their homes.

Our population is relatively youthful, with some 22% aged under 16 compared with a UK average of 19%. The population of 0-4 year olds is expected to increase by 19% to 2011 in contrast with a national projection of a 3% increase. The population of school age children (5-16 years) will increase by 5% to 2011 in contrast with a national 6% decrease.

There is also a rapidly growing population aged over 60 that by 2011 is expected to increase by some 33%, compared to 13% nationally.

Our community is becoming increasingly diverse. The 2001 census counted 9.3% of the population as being from non-white, black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. This proportion has risen from 5.8% in 1991 and will continue to grow – BME pupils comprised some 21% of the 2004 school population.

The city's design

The urban area is divided into 80 "gridsquares". These vary in size and are bounded by gridroads, many being dual carriageways. There is an extensive network of 250 km of pedestrian and cycle ways known as "redways", which are lit and link estates and gridsquares. Many gridsquares contain their own local shopping centre, community meeting place, primary school and health centre, thus discouraging wider travel.

Milton Keynes was designed for easy travel by car, with high-speed roads and plentiful parking. The urban grid road structure is ill-suited to public transport and bus use is well below the national average for towns of Milton Keynes' size.

The Milton Keynes Economy

Milton Keynes is emerging as an important regional centre, its economy serves a large catchment - 17.5 million people live within a 90 minute drive from the city. There are particular strengths in distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants, banking, finance and insurance, and business services. There is also a significant manufacturing sector employing over 15,000.

Unemployment is low at 2% and the city offers 122,000 jobs, growing at approximately 3,000 jobs annually. One third of the working population comprises inward commuters.

It has a strong entrepreneurial culture - new VAT registrations totalled 50.2 per 10,000 adults in 2003, compared with an England figure of 41.8.

However the workforce in Milton Keynes is not as highly qualified as we would wish, particularly in relation to our comparator areas.

The city enjoys an enviable reputation for shopping, theatre, cinema and cultural facilities and is increasingly well known for alternative leisure activities. It continues to develop as a regional centre with major new facilities including the MK Dons football stadium development together with a new conference centre, shopping and hotel facilities in Central Milton Keynes.

Maintenance of economic competitiveness is crucial if the City is to grow sustainability.

Deprivation, Health and Crime

The principal objective of the LAA, Closing the Gap, refers to the partnership's ambition to raise the standards of our least well performing areas to the Milton Keynes average and above. The following therefore provides an analysis of the position in the City and justifies intervention in those areas. The LAA actions therefore seek to directly address these needs.

The overall prosperity masks localised deprivation, notably in parts of the older towns and particular estates. The 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that some areas of the city are within the 20% most deprived areas in England. A major challenge is to enable the poorest areas to benefit from the city's overall prosperity and growth opportunities.

Our objectives are to reduce the number of individuals experiencing deprivation in Milton Keynes and to develop long term strategies that will support the continued challenging such conditions. We will therefore be

monitoring the changes in a range of key indicators and working to address those which currently fall within the most disadvantaged 20% nationally.

Although activity in the LAA addresses need across the whole city and rural communities activity will be targeted to close the gap in performance of the communities in the 13 Super Output Areas (SOA) in Milton Keynes which fall in the lowest 20% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMDs) nationally. The population of an SOA is around 1,500

The 13 SOA's are:

- 5 SOA's in the Woughton Ward (4 in worst 10% nationally)
- 3 SOA's in the Eaton Manor Ward (2 in worst 10% nationally)
- 2 SOA's in the Campbell Park Ward
- 1 SOA in each of the following wards: Bradwell, Stantonbury and Stony Stratford

Particular issues which are drawn out by the IMD show that low skills and income deprivation are perhaps the most widespread issue facing the City. The relatively high employment rates across the community mean that this is a key issue for the ongoing prosperity of the resident population and potentially a problem for the competitiveness of the wider city. SEEDA, through the Area Programme, is targeting these areas to improve the resident's competitiveness.

Milton Keynes has a number of areas which achieve a low score on the access to services measure. This is concentrated on a number of rural communities, which reflects the distance to travel to key services such as GP, supermarkets, post offices and schools. The LAA cannot therefore lose sight of these communities when trying to address core local problems.

A detailed analysis of individual target areas is set out in Appendix C.

The leading causes of death in Milton Keynes are the same as those nationally – circulatory diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases. Death rates from the major killers, especially heart disease, are falling, but there is a higher than average rate of respiratory deaths. Sexually transmitted disease, including HIV, continues to increase. Teenage pregnancy rates remain high but are falling.

For over 40 years Milton Keynes has enjoyed an enviable reputation as a vibrant city and a safe place to live and work. The city continues to attract an increasingly diverse population to lend strength to our community as we embark on a new era of substantial and sustainable growth to build inclusive communities that are fit for purpose and fit for the future.

The Community Safety Partnership is resolved to make Milton Keynes even safer and stronger. Working together with Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire and Rescue and the local Health Service we have developed a rolling three-year strategy with ambitious targets to reduce to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour throughout the borough still further.

Building on the success of this partnership and by engaging with business, voluntary and charity sector organisations we aim to tackle the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, while doing everything we can to enforce the law vigorously and fairly. We want to creatively obtain further investment to deliver a safer and stronger community, for example, through using funding obtained from the proceeds of crime. As we achieve these goals we will also reduce the fear of crime in our community.

In addition to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour we are committed to helping to ensure that Milton Keynes is a cleaner, greener and above all safer place for future generations to enjoy. We aim to promote fire and road safety and believe that education and improvement are the keys to unlock an enhanced quality of life for all our citizens, whether they live in urban or rural locations.

To enable us to realise our vision for the future we have built targets into our strategy that will, as we achieve them, further enhance and develop our strengths as a community. Our continuing success is dependent on engaging with our greatest asset, our citizens. We need their support and active participation in local politics, Parish Councils and all the voluntary, cultural, leisure and sports organisations that make Milton Keynes all it is today – and everything we want it to be for the future.

3. Milton Keynes Community Strategy and Strategic Partnerships

Milton Keynes has unusually strong set of mature relationships with partners from all sectors. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)¹ is well established and reflects the long history of community groups and a strong voluntary sector. Plans for Milton Keynes, including the LAA, are therefore jointly owned by a very wide range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The vision of the LSP is to:

'...create a city that has soul, energy and dynamism. Our towns, villages, neighbourhoods and spaces will be desirable, fun, affordable safe and accessible. It will be a learning city, built and developed by a skilled and well-educated population. People will thrive financially and emotionally on the buzz of living and working in this international city of the future'.

Milton Keynes Community Strategy Our handbook for Change 2004-2034

The governance arrangements for the LSP are currently under review, with an anticipated implementation of recommendations in June 2007. The review is stimulated, in part, to engender greater community involvement in strategic decision making as well as increased accountability for delivery. The current structure includes a small executive board in addition to the wider LSP. Additionally there are fourteen strategic partnerships each represented on the LSP.

The Community Strategy is a high level framework for 30 years of development. The document contains action plans which seek to deliver the foundations of this growth and indicators to monitor the progress towards our vision. The Strategy was atypical of other similar documents nationally in that it set out actions and performance indicators alongside the strategic intentions. The Strategy was agreed 2004 and will be refreshed in 2007.

The Local Area Agreement completes the structure as the Community Strategy's Delivery Plan to be refreshed annually. By drawing together the Strategic Partners' ambitions, LPSA targets and the Community Strategy Action Plans together it sets out our intentions in that context.

The LAA addresses most of the Community Strategy Action Plans except the actions associated with Growth. The nature of the LAA defined in part by its overarching objective, Closing the Gap' addresses the city's problem areas rather than the creation of new areas. It is possible that future versions of the LAA will develop the growth element further. We have mapped original Community Strategy actions against the outcomes, the results are set out in Appendix D

Existing Community Strategy performance indicators are generally not covered by the LAA. These indicators will be reviewed to assess their relevance in the refreshed Community Strategy in 2007.

¹ CPA feedback 2006

4. Governance Framework

The experience of other areas who have negotiated a LAA to date is that their ability to meet the needs of their areas would be significantly enhanced by a framework that

- fosters and capitalises on high-quality political leadership;
- secures the commitment of all the players in the area to an agreed strategy;
- enables better and more accessible data to be collected on the area
- enables spending to be aligned with the agreed local priorities.

It is suggested that by redefining the role of the LSPE (Local Strategic Partnership Executive) these aims can be achieved. In terms of the LAA the LSPE will be responsible for:

- drawing up, negotiating with government and then delivering a set of localised targets linked to national and local priorities within the wider framework of the local community strategy;
- bringing together the key decision-makers in a way that is visible, meaningful, and accountable to local people and which delivers improved public services;
- overseeing public expenditure in the locality, and to manage relevant budget streams through joint planning and resource allocation, for the better achievement of shared priorities and more efficient service procurement;
- exercising a leadership and governing role, identifying and articulating the needs and aspirations of local people, reconciling competing interests and making difficult choices, steering collective partnership capacity, and harnessing community support for an agreed set of goals; and
- acting as an agent for the transformational change needed if new forms of public service delivery are to become embedded across Milton Keynes and if public perceptions of the value and importance of good government at local level are to be heightened in the long-term.

The delivery of the outcomes from the LAA will be the responsibility of specific individuals, partnerships or statutory bodies. (The 'owners' have yet to be determined but will become clearer once the draft LAA is in place). Having regard to the above the LSPE will ensure that the appropriate performance management processes are in place. The owners of the targets will be required to report to the LSPE every three months indicating the progress they are making in the delivery of targets. The LSPE will monitor, review and provide the co-ordination of the outcomes. Scrutiny of the LAA process will be undertaken by the full LSP. An officer programme board comprising the lead officers for each key area and the co-ordinating officer would also be established.

5. Financial Arrangements and Pooled Budgets

Although the LAA does not provide additional money the Agreement does facilitate greater flexibility as to how funding provided by government to the different partners can be allocated. The 2007 LAA will focus on identifying and aligning budgets to improve the way we work. Projects are funded through existing budget arrangements.

Budgets that are pooled in accordance with guidance are as follows:

	DESCRIPTION OF POOLED BUDGET	2007
1	Anti social behaviour grant Building safer communities	£296,196
2	Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant	£68,660
3	Waste performance and Efficiency Grant	£174,731
4	Travel to School Initiative (School Modal Shift Grant)	£29,000
	Total of Pooled Budgets	£568,587

6. Proposed Enabling Measures – Business Cases Under Development

Ref	Enabling Measure	Description	Block	Lead
1	Seized Assets	Enable the police element of seized assets under the Protection of Crime Act to be retained in MK to resource further crime reduction initiatives.	S&SC	R Solly
2	Adjustment the landfill allowances to take account of population growth.	Landfill allowances do not take account of population growth. They have been allocated to MKC according to the amount of municipal waste it landfilled in 2001/2, when the population was considerably lower. If MKC exceeds it allowances it will be fined.	S&SC	G King
3	Relax rules re key worker housing – cross cutting	Widening the definition of a Key worker and revisions to the use of national criteria for shared ownership/key worker housing to reflect the unique nature of the housing market in Milton Keynes	ED&E/ HC&O P	J Bilson
4	Receipt of Court fines	Enable the use of Court fines to be recycled locally to resource initiatives. Further research required.	S&SC	R Solly
5	Relax home office regulations	Relax regulations on the presentation of crime figures to reflect growth. Further research required.	S&SC	R Solly
6	LAGBI	Flexibility on the thresholds calculating the grant. Associated with population growth calculations	ED&E	C Fox
7	To waiver the LSC 3 year residency rule for English for Speakers of Other Languages.	To enable newly arrived immigrants to be eligible for Learning and Skills Council funding in order to receive English for Speakers of Other Languages tuition on arrival in the country. At present only those resident for 3 years are eligible.	ED&E	C Fox
8	Relaxation of Capital/Revenue split on certain streams of Government funding	Particular problem for the Area Programme, which is principally a revenue based programme due to the very small budget	ED&E	C Fox
9	Renegotiate QOF (Quality Outcome Framework)	To expand the requirements of the new QOF outcomes so that all practices are required to record the smoking status of all patients	HC&O P	R Flowers
10	Clawback	Request that clawback is retained in the local area, ring fenced for local regeneration	HC&O P	J Strong Ceri Davies - Finance
11	Decent Home Programme	Extend the council housing Decent Homes programme from 2010 to 2013 in order to provide better quality homes and environments	S&SC	J Bilson

12	Self Certification - Planning	<p>Various planning applications must be referred to GOSE under DCLG planning directions linked to the following circulars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residential development on greenfield land (Circular 8/00) 2. Shopping development direction (Circular 15/93) <p>The request is for MKC (and MKP) to be able to 'self-certify' planning applications against these directives therefore removing the need for them to be referred to GOSE, provided they meet certain criteria.</p>	ED&E	I Haynes
13	Longer Term Funding agreement	<p>MK has received government for funding for growth through various mechanisms - eg CIF, GAF, PDG</p> <p>The request is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More certainty, in terms of future funding - • More flexibility, in terms of how quickly the money must be spent and on what 	ED&E	I Haynes
14	Changes to the Housing Benefit Regulations to Reflect Housing Needs in Milton Keynes and Make Better Use of the Local Housing Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the restrictions within the HB regulations which prevent 18-25 year olds from receiving housing benefit for private sector accommodation, • Lift the market rent restrictions which prevent under occupation by couples of three bedroom properties 	HC&O P	J Bilson
15	Life Time Homes Development	To have in place a local power to ensure that all new build homes are completed to lifetime homes standard.	HC&O P	P Gibson
16	To opt out of the Housing Subsidy regime for Council homes.	Achieving Decent Homes Plus Standard and enabling a fuller regeneration of existing housing stock and local built environment.	HC&O P	J Bilson
17	Car Parking	To use the money received from car parking for other initiatives.	S&SC	K Whiteside

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7. Outcome Framework

1.0 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES
1.1 OUTCOME Reduce Crime (mandatory)
1.1.1 Objective To reduce overall British Crime Survey comparator recorded crime by (x%) per 1,000 population by 31.3.10.
1.1.2 Objective Reduce violent crime in public places by (x%) per 1,000 population by 31.3.08.
1.1.3 Objective Reduce the proportion of adult and young offenders and prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend by (x%) by 31.3.10.
1.2 OUTCOME Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime (mandatory)
1.2.1 Objective Reduce fear of being a victim of crime across Milton Keynes by (x%) by 31.3.10
1.2.2 Objective Reduce the fear of being a victim of crime amongst people over 65 by x% by 31.3.10
1.3 OUTCOME Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs (mandatory)
1.3.1 Objective Reduce public perceptions of local drug dealing and drug misuse as a problem by 10% by 31.3.08.
1.3.2 Objective Increase the number of drug-misusing offenders successfully completing treatment programmes by (x%) by 31.3.10.
1.4 OUTCOME Build Respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour (mandatory)

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1.4.1 Objective Increase of (x%) by 31.3.10 in percentage of people who feel informed about what is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour in their local area.
1.4.2 Objective Increase of (x%) by 31.3.10 in percentage of people who feel that parents in their local area are made to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children.
1.4.3 Objective Increase of (x%) by 31.3.10 in percentage of people who feel that people in their area treat them with respect and consideration
1.4.4 Objective Reduce the fear of being a victim of anti-social behaviour by (x%) across Milton Keynes by 31.3.10
1.4.5 Objective To reduce offences of deliberate firesetting per 1,000 population by (x%) by 31.3.10
1.5 OUTCOME Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public services delivery (mandatory)
1.5.1 Objective By 31.3.10, increase by (x%) the percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area.
1.5.2 Objective By 31.3.10, increase by (x%) the percentage of residents from black and minority ethnic communities who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area.
1.5.3 Objective By 31.3.10, increase by (x%) the percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together.
1.5.4 Objective By 31.3.10, increase by (x%) the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of least two hours per week over the past year

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1.6 OUTCOME Reduce numbers killed and seriously injured on roads
1.6.1 Objective To reduce the number of those killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents by x% by 31.3.10
1.6.2 Objective To reduce the number of children and young people under 18 killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents by x% by 31.3.10
1.7 OUTCOME Reduce repeat domestic, racial and homophobic violence
1.7.1 Objective To reduce repeat victimisation from domestic violence by x% by 31.3.10
1.7.2 Objective To reduce repeat victimisation from racial harassment by x% by 31.3.10
1.8 OUTCOME Reduced waste to landfill and increase recycling (mandatory)
1.8.1 Objective Reduction in the percentage of municipal waste landfilled
1.8.2 Objective Increase in the percentage of municipal waste recycled.

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2.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2.1 OUTCOME

Create a vibrant, thriving and positive community of young people in Milton Keynes by promoting and supporting community and volunteering activities, participation in learning, sports, cultural and leisure activities, and by promoting positive perceptions about young people. Children and young people to report that they feel MK is a great place to grow up in.

2.1.1 Objective

Children and young people have better physical health to enable them to enjoy life and achieve their potential

2.1.2 Objective

Young people are aware of the potential harm from using illegal substances, and either reject such practices or deploy harm minimisation techniques

2.1.3 Objective

Improve the sexual health of young people aged 16-25

2.1.4 Objective

Improve the emotional & mental health of children & young people, and provide effective interventions for those that need them

2.1.5 Objective

Promote the welfare and attainment of vulnerable children and young people

2.1.6 Objective

Children and young people make good progress at school

2.1.7 Objective

Provide and promote a wide range of accessible and affordable play, leisure, sporting and cultural opportunities for children and young people

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3.0 HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES & OLDER PEOPLE

3.1 OUTCOME

Improved Health and reduced health inequalities

Reduced health inequalities within the local area, by narrowing the gap in all-age, all cause mortality (Mandatory)

3.1.1 Objective

Reduce inequalities in life expectancy between the most and least affluent

3.1.2 Objective

Reduce inequalities in infant mortality

3.1.3 Objective

To promote healthy lifestyles, particularly in deprived areas

3.1.4 Objective

To improve sexual health

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3.2 OUTCOME

Increased independence, well being and choice for vulnerable and older people through active participation in the community, including physical and cultural activity, enabling them to have a healthy and active lifestyle.

3.3 OUTCOME

Improved quality of life and independence for all vulnerable and older people enabling them to remain living safely at home for as long as possible.

3.3.1 Objective

Improve Wellbeing

3.3.2 Objective

Improve physical and mental health of older and vulnerable people and reduce accidents

3.3.3 Objective

Improve older people's health through hospital admission and readmission avoidance.

3.3.4 Objective

Improve older and vulnerable people's health through community and cultural activity

3.3.5 Objective

Eliminate poverty and promote independence

3.3.6 Objective

Reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty

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3.4 OUTCOME

Provision of affordable, decent housing and housing support for people in need and prevention of homelessness.

3.4.1 Objective

Increase the level of debt counselling and welfare rights advice to support and maintain tenancies

3.4.2 Objective

Vulnerable owner occupiers are supported to maintain their homes

3.4.3 Objective

Increase the number of families housed in permanent accommodation

3.4.4 Objective

Reduce homelessness

3.4.5 Objective

To deliver improved built environment conditions on targeted estates whilst continuing to deliver Decent Homes Standards in Council owned properties to new target date of 2013.

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4.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

Enterprise MK – A sustainable local economy through enterprise, creativity and innovation

4.1 OUTCOME Skills MK

By 2012 the Milton Keynes will be demonstrating signs of good progression towards having a well educated, skilled and entrepreneurial workforce

4.1.1 Objective

Encouraging enterprise in young people

- a) Improved education business links
- b) Improved enterprise skills development within schools
- c) Reduction of NEET through engaging young people in enterprise

4.1.2 Objective

Increase Support for Enterprising business

- a) Increased support for new and ongoing business
- b) Enterprise support for under represented groups
- c) Increased skills development within business
- d) Increased skills development within creative and cultural industries
- e) Increased support for social enterprise

4.1.3 Objective

Develop Learning resources as a focus for Enterprise

- a) Progressing University MK as an “attractor” for enterprise
- b) Increased learning opportunities to meet the needs of an expanding city
- c) Access to training for migrant workforce
- d) Improved access to training for under represented groups

4.1.4 Objective

Support to individuals to enable them to become / stay involved in the economy

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- a) Support for self-employment
- b) Increased take up rates of Adult Guidance
- c) Reduction of economically inactive adults through improved provision
- d) Through a vibrant cultural offer helping to retain younger people and graduates in the locality.

4.2 OUTCOME Destination MK

By 2012 Milton Keynes will be known as an exciting and fun place to live, work and visit with excellent public and private services

4.2.1 Objective

To ensure that Milton Keynes is perceived as a place of enterprise, creativity and innovation

- a) Support for self-employment
- b) Increased take up rates of Adult Guidance
- c) Reduction of economically inactive adults through improved provision
- d) Through a vibrant cultural offer helping to retain younger people and graduates in the locality.

4.2.2 Objective

To enable the development of Property for innovation

- a) Improved access to property for new business
- b) Increased housing supply with improved access to housing for Key-workers and those on lower incomes.
- c) Create a space for artists “the Edge” to provide opportunities for innovative, spontaneous and creative practice

4.2.3 Objective

To improve destination offers

- a) MK as an increased destination for retail
- b) MK as an increased destination for Leisure and tourism
- c) MK as an increased destination for Arts and culture

4.2.4 Objective

To improve Transport and Access

- a) Increased access to Public transport
- b) Reduced car use for employment
- c) Broadband take-up

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4.3 OUTCOME Sustainable MK

By 2012 we will be developing environmentally efficient businesses and high quality developments that demonstrate that the quality of the environment is a key asset that underpins economic success.

4.3.1 Objective

To improve environmental performance

- a) Develop sustainable production and consumption
- b) Improve business energy management

4.3.2 Objective

To reduce economic differential between MK average and most disadvantaged wards

- a) Reduced unemployment rates and economic inactivity
- b) Increase skills levels
- c) Increasing innovation

4.3.3 Objective

To improve support for the economy in Rural areas

- a) Increased support for new and ongoing rural businesses
- b) Increased skills development within rural businesses
- c) Improved economic activity in rural areas

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Key

(Mandatory Outcomes)

LPSA2 Target

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Appendix A - LAA Engagement and Consultation Events

Workshops	Date
Horizontal Workshops	7,10,18 April
Area Programme Shared Understanding	25 April
Voluntary Community Sector – Working Group	2 May
Economic Development & Enterprise Block	24 May
Safer & Stronger Communities Block	5 June
LSP	8 June
Healthier Communities & Older People Block	21 June, 20 July
Parish Representatives	22 July
Partnerships	
MKCLIP (Community Local Infrastructure Partnership)	12 May
Local Housing Strategic Partnership	19 May
Children and Young Peoples Partnership	26 May
MKCLIP (Community Local Infrastructure Partnership)	5 June
Sport & Physical Activity Alliance	13 June
Leisure Centre Managers	15 June
Strategic Environmental Partnership	14 June
Early Years Development & Childcare Team	4 July
Cultural Alliance	5 July
Community Safety Partnership	10 July
SureStart & Community Learning	11 July
Strategic Environment Partnership	11 September
MK Economy and Learning Partnership (Economic Development & Economic Block workshop)	14 September
Members	
Health Scrutiny Panel	1 August
CLT/Cabinet	4 September
Lib Dem Leaders Group	7 September
Cabinet	26 September

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Communication	Date
Website Launch	May
Members Newsletter	1 June
MK@Work	June Edition
Parish Newsletter	June & August Editions

Appendix B - Statement of Involvement: Local Area Agreement MK and the VCS

The Compact

The local compact is an agreement of how the local public sector bodies, including local authorities, and local voluntary and community sector organisations will work together. According to Government Guidance, 'Local Compacts are in place or under development in 98% of local authority areas, with LSPs increasingly taking a lead role.'¹²

The Community Engagement Strategy

In MK the LSP are currently consulting on a Community Engagement Strategy, which is a set of principles for all LSP members and their strategic partnerships to adopt when engaging with communities. This document is based rooted in the Compact Codes of Good Practice on Consultation and Engagement as well as other local authority documents relating to community consultation and engagement.

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The Local VCS

The VCS is very diverse in MK. Research conducted in 2001 revealed that there were 1148 active Voluntary organisations and community groups across the city. These organisations ranged from very small groups such as the Bletchley Cactus society to larger infrastructure organisations such as Volunteer Connections, MK Play Association, local arms of national charities such as Age Concern and Brook, as well as national headquarters of World Vision and Spinal Injuries Association.

The Local Strategic Partnership in MK has a number of VCS representatives who are actively involved in promoting the sector at a strategic level. There is a strategic partnership MKCLIP (MK Community Local Infrastructure Partnership) comprised of infrastructure organisations in MK who have a role in delivering actions within the community strategy framework and working cross sector to achieve this.

How the Local VCS have been involved in the MK LAA Process.

The VCS have been involved in the local LAA process. The Community Local Infrastructure Partnership which are the strategic partnership who feed into the LSP were approached and invited to a workshop on 12 May 2006 to develop their understanding of the LAA and see how their involvement could be developed.

The workshop captured the following Opportunities, Threats, and Priorities for the VCS.

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Opportunities

- Partnership working and joining up services
- Cultural targets must be embedded in all 4 blocks to establish a sense of place within our neighbourhoods
- Engagement with people not represented by the democratic process
- VCS can offer effective community engagement processes with a model for what we do, how we do it and what it costs.
- VCS education programme to raise awareness of what the sector does among politicians and agency officers.
- Commissioning, Contracting, Service Level Agreements and pooling budgets may give the VCS more scope for negotiating.
- Consistent and agreed system for managing projects to make us more effective
- Taking stock of what our organisations 'do'
- Audit of VCS services
- Joint working potential
- Reduction of duplication
- Sharing resources and knowledge
- Sharing training
- Sharing procurement
- Improving communication
- Develop Community Involvement
- Recognition of the valuable contribution the VCS makes to society

Threats

- Parallel services that are similar, yet there is a need for both recognised by the VCS may not be recognised by other sectors.
- Internal challenge for the sector to audit what services we provide
- Many of outcomes from work done by the VCS is qualitative which is hard to measure – particularly within the context of the very performance led LAA
- LAA process may raise expectations within the VCS as well as with local people
- There is a general misunderstanding of what the VCS does and what different organisations do.
- Politicians change
- There isn't currently consistency in how different organisations are treated by other public sector organisations.
- There must be equity among organisations across all sectors
- Competition within the sector
- We feel like Turkey's voting for Christmas
- Local and National Government priorities change

Priorities

- Training needs for evidence based practice, performance management and the skills to sell the benefits and solutions the VCS can offer.
- Ensure that VCS make best use of the new Intranet which will be launched in the

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summer 2006

- Addressing capacity issues and explore ideas for centralised systems and recognise the difference of various services
- Avoid being purely service deliverers – the VCS does not want to become a deliver arm of the public sector
- The VCS must retain its identity and ethos and continue to work in its much prided innovative way
- The VCS must sell itself through positive, evidence based, practical and creative solutions.
- Community Engagement – how do we make representations on behalf of the community
- Identify a budget to build the capacity of organisations to engage in the LAA process.
- Produce an action plan to progress this
- Audit of VCS Services to identify gaps and duplication
- Continued 'real' involvement of VCS in the LAA
- Sharing procurement
- Shared support services
- VCS retains a strong presence in MK

Events: VCS Involvement

- GOSE Event:
- Identification of VCS representatives on each Block
- Community Involvement Officer to act as CLIP representative on LAA Project Group
- CLIP Workshop:
- CLIP Meeting follow up: Juniper Strong & Jill Jones attendance at CLIP meeting.
- Development of Block priorities
- VCS Representatives evaluation meeting.

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VCS Representatives Evaluation Meeting.

On 18 July 2006 the VCS representatives were invited to come and share their experiences of the LAA process to date.

The representatives from Age Concern and Volunteer Connections were unable to attend but had responded in writing. The Racial Equality Council, Brook and YMCA attended.

Healthier Communities and Older People

The VCS seem to be well integrated into this block.

Enterprise and Economy

The VCS seem to be well integrated into this block. The Director of MK Christian Foundation is working with the MKELP to develop this block.

Safer & Stronger Communities

The VCS seem to be well integrated into this block. (NA & DL to workshops)

Children & Young People

The CYP Block has drawn heavily on the Children and Young People's Plan, for which there was extensive consultation earlier this year (including with children and young people), and detailed actions and success criteria identified. The voluntary sector, through the ChYPP (Children & Young People Strategic Partnership) network, has been involved and consulted on the design of the CYP Block, and there is strong commitment to work in close partnership to deliver this Agreement. The leadership of the Block was shared between officers from the Council, the PCT and the Voluntary Sector.

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The partners that have been involved in developing the LAA include:

Community Safety Partnership
The Cultural Alliance
The Sports Alliance
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue
Business Link MK, Oxfordshire & Bucks
Jobcentre Plus
Learning & Skills Council
MK Association of Local Councils
MK College
MK Community Foundation
MK Council
MK Council of Voluntary Organizations
MK Parks Trust
Milton Keynes Partnership
MK Primary Care Trust
MK Association of Urban Parish Councils
Thames Valley Police
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
ChYPP (Children & Young People Strategic Partnership)
CMK Partnership/Board
Connexions Local Management Committee
Early Years and Childcare Partnership
Environmental Partnership
Joint Health and Social Care Board
Local Strategic Housing Partnership
MK Community Local Infrastructure Partnership
MK Economy & Learning Partnership
MK Sport & Physical Activity Alliance
Transport Partnership
Age Concern
Disabled People
Gay and Lesbian Link
MK Council of Faiths
MK Chamber of Commerce
Minority Ethnic Communities
Southern & Eastern Regional Trade
Union Congress Younger People

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Appendix C - Detailed analysis of the socio/economic conditions of the target areas.

Based on the Index of Deprivation 2004 the following sets out an analysis of the conditions across the Local Authority District, generally findings reflect the Social Atlas, MKs local measures. The IMD 2004 was constructed by combining data on the following:

- Income
- Employment
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Education, Skills and Training
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Crime
- Living Environment

The theme of the LAA, Closing the Gap, attempts to address the issues faced by our least well performing geographical areas and bring them up to the Milton Keynes average. The narrative below examines the worst performing aspects.

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Woughton

The Woughton Ward has the highest concentration of disadvantaged SOA's in the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority Area with four of the five SOA's in the 10% most disadvantaged nationally. The area includes a number of the earlier housing estates constructed as a part of the development of the New Town. Netherfield at the heart of the Ward has been the recipient of SRB funds. The Ward as a whole has a population of 10,223. The five SOA's in the Ward with an IMD score in the most deprived 20% nationally are:

SOA 18C This area is to the East of the Ward and includes the hospital and the Northern section of Netherfield and has a population of 1,460. Analysis of the elements that constitute the IMD Score shows that Education, Skills and Training represent the aspect showing the most significant deprivation with a ranking in the bottom 2.5% nationally. The other aspect of note is income score, which is just outside the lowest 5% ranking in the country. The area has a population of 1,460.

SOA 21D This area is on the Eastern side of the Ward comprising the East half of Coffee hall, it has a population of 1,420. The area rather than having a particular focus of disadvantage has 4 elements whose scores are within the most deprived 10% nationally. These are in the Income, Health deprivation and Disability, Education, Skills and Training and Crime sectors. The employment score is also within the most deprived 20%.

SOA 23B Covering the central area of the Netherfield Estate towards the South Eastern corner of the Ward, this area has a number of elements contributing to its ranking within the 10% most deprived areas nationally. Income and Education, Skills and training are both in the most

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disadvantaged 5%, while Health and Disability and Employment scores are in the 10% and 20% bands respectively.

SOA 23C The Southern part of Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge make up this area to the South of the Ward, with a population of 1,370. The Employment Education, Skills and Training again features within the most disadvantaged 5%, with the income score just outside this band. Employment and crime both feature in the most disadvantaged 20%.

SOA 23D A slightly odd shaped area covering the Southern corner of Coffee Hall, the Eastern half of Beanhill and the commercial area of Bleak Hall. It is the SE corner of the Ward and has a population of 1,500. Again showing strong indicators of deprivation in a number of areas. Education, Skills and Training are again in the most deprived 5% along with Health and Disability. Income and Employment are both within the most deprived 10%. Rather strangely Crime which features quite strongly in the other Woughton SOA's does not feature so strongly.

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Eaton Manor

The Eaton manor Ward is at the Southern tip of the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority Area and contains estates created for London over-spill. Three of the Five SOA's in the Ward are in the most deprived 20% nationally, with two of them within the 10% most disadvantaged. The Ward, as with Netherfield, has been in receipt of SRB funding, which comes to an end in March of this year. The ward has a population of 8,085.

SOA 32A This area is at the centre of the Ward comprising the Northern element of the Lakes Estate. This is the most disadvantaged SOA within the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority and the second most disadvantaged within the MKOB sub-region. As with all three SOA's Education, Skills and Training are very strong indicators all are within the 2.5% most deprived areas nationally. Income, health and Disability and Employment also have significant scores. The latter two being in the 10% most deprived and income in the 5% most deprived nationally. The area has a population of 1,580.

SOA 32B The most Southern of the SOA's and therefore to the South of the Ward it includes the lower half of the Lakes Estate and a large area of brownfield land to the West. As with the other SOA's in this ward Education. Skills and Training have extremely low scores (this SOA is just within the 1.5% most deprived nationally for this element). Crime is also a key issue, being only marginally outside the 5% most disadvantaged areas nationally. Income. Employment, Housing and Health and Disability are all consistently within the 20% band of most disadvantaged.

SOA 32C To the West of the Ward bordering the Grand Union Canal, this area includes the Western strip of the Lakes Estate. Education, Skills and Training are the most significant factor in the area, with the rating

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only marginally above that of SOA32B. Income and Crime are both within the most disadvantaged 20%. The population for the area is 1,540.

Campbell Park

The Campbell Park Ward covers Central Milton Keynes and the grid squares to the South and East of this area. The Ward has two SOA's that fall within the 20% most deprived areas. These are largely both within the Fishermead Estate. The population of the Ward is 12,979.

SOA 14B This area is largely the Northern half of Fishermead but also includes the North east fringe of Oldbrook across the grid road. It has an unexpectedly high Crime Score that places this element within the most disadvantaged 3% nationally. Its Income, Employment and Education, Skills and Training are all firmly within the nation's 20% most disadvantaged areas.

SOA 18A The Southern area of Fishermead that borders on the Northern edge of the Woughton ward. The most significant factor from the IMD scores is Crime, which is a few places shy of being in the most disadvantaged 5% nationally. Income and Education, Skills and Training are the other elements within the 20% most deprived bands. The population for the area is 1,460.

As well as the Wards with more than one deprived SOA within the 20% most deprived there are three other SOA's in this band scattered across the built up area to the North of central Milton Keynes. One of these, in Bradwell, is linked to those in the South by the Central Milton Keynes area itself. The other two are unrelated to the main clusters.

Bradwell

The Bradwell Ward covers the grid squares extending North from Central Milton Keynes. The Ward has one SOA in the nation's 20% most deprived band. The population of the whole ward is 12,447.

SOA 14A On the Southern edge of the Ward and adjacent to Central Milton Keynes, this area consists of the Southern half of Conniburrow. Whilst the area has no outstanding individual scores its Income, Employment and Education, Skills and Training scores are all within the 20% most deprived band. The area has a population of 1,560.

Stantonbury

The Stantonbury Ward extends across the Northern area of the housing built as a part of the development of the new Town. The Ward has one SOA in the 20% most deprived band. Stantonbury has a population of 8,940.

SOA 6A This area includes the Northern half of Bradville and a few streets on the other side on the Grid Road in Stantonbury. Crime is a major factor in the low IMD score with a level just outside the 5% most disadvantaged areas. Education, Skills and Training are again a significant element with the Score well within the 5% most disadvantaged nationally.

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Income is the final area of significance with a score within the 20% most deprived band. The population of this area is 1,590.

Stony Stratford

The Stony Stratford Ward is in the northeastern corner of the Unitary Authority Area. It contains Stony Stratford the historic coaching town, a rural area that includes the hamlets of Calverton, Lower Weald, Middle Weald and Upper Weald and sections of some of the New Town estates in the North Western corner of the development area. It is a largely prosperous Ward with one SOA appearing in the 20% most deprived areas nationally. The population of the Ward is 11,778

SOA 12B This is the southeastern half of Fullers Slade having a population of 1,350. As with many of the SOA's the Education, Skills and Training scores are of most concern with a ranking well within the 10% most disadvantaged nationally. Income and Crime are the other score that influence the overall IMD with both being well into the 20% most disadvantaged band.

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Mapping of Community Strategy Action Plans against LAA Outcomes.

1.0 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES	
Outcome	Existing Community Strategy Action
1.1 Reduce Crime (mandatory)	2.2.2 Roll out the Local Management of Community Safety initiative, working closely with Parish Councils.
1.2 Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime (mandatory)	
1.3 Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs (mandatory)	
1.4 Build Respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour (mandatory)	
1.5 Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public services delivery (mandatory)	1.3.2 Refreshing our 'can do' pioneering energy, promoting our status as a city, by name <i>and</i> through cultural facilities 3.1.1 Developing an inclusive, empowering and enabling community engagement strategy, recognising the increasing diversification of our communities 3.4.1 Championing and supporting the delivery of creative approaches to community cohesion, equalities and social inclusion, starting from a comprehensive evidence base and setting targets for our collective response

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1.6 Reduce numbers killed and seriously injured on roads	
1.7 Reduce repeat domestic, racial and homophobic violence	
1.8 Reduced waste to landfill and increase recycling (mandatory)	

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2.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Outcome	Existing Community Strategy Action
2.1 Create a thriving, vibrant and positive community of young people in Milton Keynes by promoting and supporting community and volunteering activities, participation in learning, sports, cultural and leisure activities, and by promoting positive perceptions about young people. Children and young people to report that MK is a great place to grow up in.	1.3.2 Refreshing our 'can do' pioneering energy, promoting our status as a city, by name <i>and</i> through cultural facilities 2.3.3 Ensure that services for children, young people and their families are better integrated and more effective and focus on their needs rather than administrative convenience

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3.0 HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE	
Outcome	Existing Community Strategy Action
3.1 Improved Health and reduced health inequalities Reduced health inequalities within the local area, by narrowing the gap in all-age, all cause mortality (Mandatory)	2.3.1 Working on a social inclusion and health strategy, focusing our attention on priority deprived areas including through the use of our next Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)
3.2 Increased independence, well being and choice for vulnerable and older people through active participation in the community, including physical and cultural activity, enabling them to have a healthy and active lifestyle.	
3.3 Improved quality of life and independence for all vulnerable and older people enabling them to remain living safely at home for as long as possible.	2.3.4 Integrate services, where appropriate, to ensure effective joint working and a better service for patients/service users – for example, where older people receive intensive support to enable them to return home 2.3.5 Ensure ongoing understanding of the needs and impact of a growing population of older people and that a person-centred approach is adopted in meeting those needs
3.4 Provision of affordable, decent housing and housing support for people in need and prevention of homelessness.	1.1.3 Supporting the Local Housing Strategic Partnership in developing a balanced mix of affordable housing and promoting quality and lifecycle flexibility in new housing

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4.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE	
Enterprise MK – A sustainable local economy through enterprise, creativity and innovation	
Outcome	Existing Community Strategy Action
4.1 Skills MK - By 2012 the Milton Keynes will be demonstrating signs of good progression towards having a well educated, skilled and entrepreneurial workforce	<p>3.2.1 Establish a coherent package of support for start-up, existing and relocating businesses including access to advice, finance and premises</p> <p>3.2.2 Strengthen education-business links to encourage a culture of enterprise within schools and other providers</p> <p>3.2.3 Support the Development of Universities for Milton Keynes (UMK)</p>
4.2 Destination MK - By 2012 Milton Keynes will be known as an exciting and fun place to live, work and visit with excellent public and private services	<p>1.1.4 Supporting the MK Partnership Committee and the Economy and Learning Partnership in developing a balanced portfolio of employment land and premises and promoting quality design and flexible uses</p> <p>2.1.2 Introduce an action plan that prevents/manages future congestion and promotes sustainable growth, collaborating on the next Local Transport Plan (LTP), coordinating our transport and learning lessons from elsewhere</p> <p>2.1.3 Taking a leading role in planning the accessibility element of the LTP, initiating innovative transport measures that reduce social exclusion</p> <p>2.4.1 Prepare the way by developing joint approaches across the public sector and other partners, where feasible, to the use of e-technology in our back office and customer interface functions, based on an incremental approach and shared learning about what works</p>

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4.3 Sustainable MK - By 2012 we will be developing environmentally efficient businesses and high quality developments that demonstrate that the quality of the environment is a key asset that underpins economic success.

3.1.2 Implementing programmes for developing and extending sustainability education and skills throughout the community

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Community Strategy Actions Not Referred to in Draft LAA	
No.	Action
1.1.1	Taking an active role in the newly reformed planning system , preparing the new Local Development Framework (LDF) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
1.1.2	Taking a leading role in promoting sustainable development principles for both existing and planned development through defining environmental standards and best practice and monitoring progress on implementation
1.1.5	Taking an active role in the development and roll-out of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for ' Planning Gain ' policies – gaining community benefits through the new planning system
1.2.1 a	Reviewing the Redways as a strategically important part of the MK urban form including their relationship with the grid system and green corridors.
1.2.1 b	Championing a new approach to contemporary urban form .
1.2.2	Addressing and supporting social, economic and physical regeneration of our towns and neighbourhoods that are in need of revitalisation, simultaneously with our commitment to achieve high quality and sustainable growth
1.2.3	Facilitate ' Placecheck ' audits to aid our understanding of how neighbourhoods work (or don't) so we can learn their lessons and establish place-making tools and design frameworks
1.2.4	Experiment in fresh approaches to providing neighbourhood facilities and creating new hearts to our communities
1.3.1	Promoting our vision as a way of revitalising MK's image and branding , working together with the commissioned branding consultants
1.3.3	To monitor and report on the maintenance and enhancement of open space and green space assets
1.4.1	Supporting the establishment of a design, planning architecture centre in the sub-region that has a participatory approach to supporting communities in thinking about possibilities for the future
1.4.2	As part of our communications and community engagement plan and strategy, we wish to develop a strong relationship between LSP partners and the local media
2.1.1	Develop Role of Transport Partnership
2.2.1	Work proactively with Parish Councils to deliver local services and engage local people in decision-making and in delivering this Community Strategy
2.2.3	Coordinating all partners' consultation channels and gaining maximum cross-agency effectiveness in consultation exercises . Pioneering new techniques and technology and ensuring that public views are considered
2.3.2	Create effective partnerships by supporting actions to implement cross cutting strategies and service integration where this makes sense and supporting the work of the key strategic partnerships

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Community Strategy Actions Not Referred to in Draft LAA

No.	Action
2.4.1	Prepare the way by developing joint approaches across the public sector and other partners, where feasible, to accommodation, procurement and use of e-technology in our back office and customer interface functions, based on an incremental approach and shared learning about what works
3.3.1	Providing a strong infrastructure to give effective support to our third sector organisations and creative approaches to financial sustainability
3.3.2	Bringing the issue of social enterprise and sustainability to the city agenda and promote an environment in which social enterprise can flourish
3.4.2	Re-kindling the legacy of the New Town community development , we will consider the type of welcoming and support programmes that our new and existing communities will need
4.2.2	Monitoring the success of our actions in meeting our vision through the use of a basket of indicators and the measurement of the Eco Footprint for MK
4.2.3	Develop the MK Observatory as a key repository of information and research

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