

MEDIUM TERM PLANNING (MTP): Briefing note to Partners

MTP is the process by which the Council decides how it will deliver its medium term (4year) priorities and therefore its contribution to the overall vision as agreed by the LSP.

Through MTP, Milton Keynes Council (MKC), working within an affordable financial framework, will decide on what services it should commission and/or deliver and at what cost, level and quality. MTP therefore is essentially the mechanism by which MKC seeks to achieve value for money (VFM).

MTP should lead to improvements in commissioning and service delivery, not only in terms of widening access where appropriate but also in enhancing the customer experience. To achieve transformational improvements, MTP necessitates critically reviewing the need for services, leading to the cessation of some services but also the development of new and more innovative services.

MTP also involves setting a balanced, 4 year, budget (2007/08 – 2010/11). On 12 June 2006 MKC's Cabinet approved a financial framework to underpin MTP. This financial or global budgetary framework requires the Council to reduce its revenue cost base by an estimated £18.9m. This would not only allow some headroom to cover a number of financial uncertainties but also allow the transfer of resources from non-priority to priority areas. The final shape of the budget will also be influenced by the overall financial envelope available to the Council including the level of Council Tax, the replacement of the targeted grant from English Partnerships, the revenue budget settlement from the government and the use / level of reserves.

To assist in achieving savings of such magnitude MKC's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) have embarked upon a number of strategic value for money reviews as outlined in the table below.

Strategic Issue	CLT Lead
Priority/Non Priority Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can we reduce or cease• What can we introduce/cross cutting priorities• Customer Focus	Brian Sandom & Nick Hicks
Regrouping/reacting Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structures• Outsourcing• Commissioning• Partnerships	John Best & Kate Page
Service Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Costs• Enhanced use of ICT• Procurement	Geoff Snelson & Vanessa Gwynn
Value for money <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Cost Services• Performance Management• People Management	Sunil Modaley & Isabell Procter
Financial Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for Growth• Farms Income	Isabell Procter

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fees & Charges• Non govt. funded capital schemes• Asset Management• Dept Management	
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These reviews, along with directorate based options for savings and service development, will lead to the overall improvements and the savings referred to above. The timetable for completing these strategic reviews is this financial year (06/07). However, by October 06, the strategic reviews must identify sufficient and robust plans for closing any remaining financial gaps for 07/08 and 08/09 in order to meet the requirements for setting the budget in February 07. Work in relation to closing the financial gaps for 09/10 and 10/11 will continue during rest of the financial year.

It is anticipated that consultation will take place with stakeholders during September and December 06. However, it is vital that discussions as to the shape of future commissioning and joined up service delivery takes place at the earliest opportunity.

Sunil Modaley
4 August 2006.