



Milton Keynes
Council

Council Plan

2016 - 2020

DRAFT

Purpose of this Council Plan

The Council Plan (The Plan) sets out how Milton Keynes Council will work to achieve its ambitions for Milton Keynes. Within it are the priorities the Council will address between 2016 and 2020 and a more detailed delivery plan showing what will be done and the main milestones along the way.

The Plan has been developed by the Labour Administration within the framework established by The Agreement to Work in Partnership (The Agreement) signed on 12 May 2016 by the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

The priorities and policies within The Plan flow from the Labour manifesto commitments and those of the MK Liberal Democrat Group and therefore the priorities presented in the Agreement.

Vision

Our vision is for a thriving, dynamic European Destination City and to ensure a fair, hardworking and more equal Milton Keynes for all.

Milton Keynes is the most successful New Town. We have attracted generations of people and businesses to move to and stay within Milton Keynes, created thousands of jobs and built a city with high quality infrastructure and green space because we have been at the cutting edge of modern thinking.

Milton Keynes Council wants to enable a 21st Century Milton Keynes while preserving what makes us special; an internationally recognised centre of prosperity, economic innovation and cultural creativity, in a high quality green space and built environment.

Our Key Aims

We have three key aims for Milton Keynes:

- **A City of Opportunity**

Milton Keynes has limitless potential. We want every person to have the chance of a good, well paid job and the skills to do it in a more equal society; a prosperous Milton Keynes with a strong, diverse economy that has an international reputation for innovation. We are in the right place to succeed, taking advantage of our excellent links to the wider regional, national and international economies, building on our success in the service and professional industries and taking advantage of new opportunities in a knowledge-based, high skilled economy. We will support people to succeed, develop the skills they need to access well paid employment and have the opportunity to meet their potential.

- **An Affordable City**

We want to create communities that can attract, retain and enable people from every background. Milton Keynes has been built on meeting the aspirations of people to live in a good home at a price they can afford to rent or buy, and businesses being able to access high quality, affordable premises that meet their needs. We will promote more affordable good quality housing and create the space for business to thrive. We want to ensure citizens have access to high quality services, a well maintained built environment and green space, and a range of facilities and cultural offers that are the fabric of any modern, diverse and successful city.

- **A Healthy City**

We will ensure lifelong wellbeing for all. We want Milton Keynes to be an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives. We will support people and invest in services that promote prevention, choice and empowerment. We will reform public services to encourage aspiration, independence and resilience; ensure children and vulnerable people are protected from harm and neglect and work with partners to integrate services, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

Our Challenges

We face a number of challenges to ensure our success continues into the future and over the period of this Plan. We have an increasing population of young people and an increasing elderly population who need support. Housing is becoming more unaffordable making it harder for citizens to access a decent home to rent or buy; homelessness is on the rise. We need to continue to maintain our public realm and green space and tackle our significant transport issues. At the same time, Milton Keynes Council is facing ever decreasing resources from Central Government to fund this increasing demand for services.

Milton Keynes Council is ambitious for the future of Milton Keynes. We will only be able to adapt and meet the aspirations of our citizens and businesses to succeed if we have a clear vision for how the Council will operate, our priorities and the outcomes we wish to achieve and how we will achieve them.

Milton Keynes Council will be doing less in the future. We will ensure that where we continue to deliver services, we will focus on working with citizens, communities, businesses and partners to ensure we will meet these challenges.

Our Values

As an organisation, Milton Keynes Council wants to set an example in our working practices and deliver excellence for our citizens.

We operate on the principles of a co-operative council and want to build partnerships with other public services, voluntary groups, charities and parish and town councils so that the services that our citizens value can continue to be delivered in a sustainable way into the future.

Our organisational values describe the behaviours that colleagues are expected to demonstrate and these competences are embedded within our appraisal mechanism to ensure that our plans are delivered in a co-operative way.

Leadership

Strong leadership is vital to ensuring the continued success of Milton Keynes.

In order to ensure clear leadership for the city and the stability needed for economic success, The Agreement reached between the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group provides for a set of clear priorities, aims and objectives. The Labour and Liberal Democrat manifestos, subject to the Agreement, will be set into the policy framework of Milton Keynes Council.

Our Key Priorities

The key priorities, as set out in the Party Manifestos and The Agreement, are:

- **Budget** - in the light of ongoing significant Conservative government funding reductions, securing a balanced medium-term budget that mitigates as far as possible against impacting adversely on the most vulnerable;
- **Housing** - supporting work on a progressive Plan:MK focussed on affordable housing, economic growth, investment and future prosperity of Milton Keynes for everyone and more strongly implementing the current 30% affordable housing requirement for new homes and to review that percentage in line with current needs;
- **Homelessness** - focussing on addressing homelessness through implementing the recommendations of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group in a timely manner; the provision of one or more hostels; preventative and support services and improved housing availability;
- **Regional Working** - embracing and strengthening our regional relationships to ensure we are well placed to optimise the opportunities and investment devolution may bring;
- **Education and skills** - supporting improvement in our education and skills sector, ensuring a good local school place for every child and a non-selective model of education;
- **Waste** - continuing a long history of innovation and sustainability, to review our Waste Strategy to ensure recycling rates are increased and waste is minimised;
- **Highways** - acknowledging the importance of our road network, to review the Council's pothole policy and approach to road/pathway maintenance;
- **Transport** - tackling our transport issues and improving public transport;
- **Adult Health and Social Care** - continuing to modernise our adult health and social care services with priority place on promoting independence, prevention, integrated working, choice and dignity through empowering service users and their carers, reducing health inequalities and working towards a healthier MK;
- **Children** - protecting our vulnerable children from harm and neglect and provide support so every child has the opportunity to succeed;
- **Mental Health** - ensuring mental health services are integrated, co-ordinated and responsive to the needs of people; treated as the same priority to physical health and accessible to people of all ages;
- **Economy** – continuing to support our vibrant economy by developing a new Economic Development Strategy that focusses on high quality jobs, inward investment and sharing the benefits of growth fairly. Working with employers to increase the number of apprenticeships, making the case to Government to establish a new HE provision for Milton Keynes, and continuing to fund MK:Smart as a showcase of MK innovation;

- **Environment** - continuing our legacy of maintaining good quality green space by better management and replacement of poor quality landscaping, improving Station Square as our "City Gateway" and committing to making Milton Keynes Carbon Neutral by 2050;
- **Regeneration** - continue to prioritise community-led regeneration by offering a business rates reduction for businesses that reopen empty properties, holding a referendum for residents on each estate before decisions are taken on regeneration plan and supporting locality based initiatives for non-priority estates like Bletchley and Wolverton;
- **European Destination City** - building on our track record of success, we will ensure Milton Keynes becomes a premier European Destination City by supporting the celebration of MK50, progressing the bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023, creating a thriving, dynamic City Centre with quality buildings and working with partners to upgrade and renew our CMK market;
- **Partnerships** - ensuring a good relationship and better integrated working with our partners in other public services, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, parish and town councils and our citizens and communities.

Delivering the Council Plan

The Council's performance management framework translates this Plan into practical action through a hierarchy of directorate and service plans and individual objectives for each colleague. Overall performance is measured against a clear delivery plan, which will be an integral part of this Council Plan.

The diagram overleaf sets out, on one page, the main themes and how they connect to the overall vision and values for Milton Keynes Council. The delivery plan sets out the detailed activities and milestones that will deliver those themes from now until 2020 and inform project activity.

The Council's appraisal mechanism for colleagues provides for each individual to have objectives which link to the delivery of the Council Plan. It also requires delivery of those objectives within the values framework set out below and measures this against seven competences, supporting colleagues to succeed for the Council and for the City now and for the future.

COUNCIL PLAN 2016 - 2020

VISION

for a thriving, dynamic European Destination City and to ensure a fair, hardworking and more equal Milton Keynes for all

VALUES

A COOPERATIVE BOROUGH WHERE WE:

PUT OUR CUSTOMERS FIRST

WORK AS A TEAM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

OBJECTIVES

TO MAKE MILTON KEYNES:

A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

AN AFFORDABLE PLACE

A HEALTHY PLACE

Every person in MK has the opportunity to achieve their ambitions, a good, well paid job and the skills to achieve it

Every person can live in a good home to buy or rent at a price people can afford in a great environment.

Ensuring lifelong wellbeing for all in an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives.

PARTNERSHIP

CITY LEADERSHIP

- Enabling and empowering others to improve our City
- Supporting parishes, the voluntary sector and communities to get things done
- Working in partnership with health and other public services to innovate, reform and improve outcomes
- Supporting businesses to grow and contribute to life in a prosperous and more equal City
- Working with neighbours for a devolution deal that meets Milton Keynes' needs