

## Content

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## 1. Introduction

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. We are at the centre of the Milton Keynes/South Midlands growth area, one of the fastest growing regions in Europe.

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 of the new communities that we will be delivering through growth.

Alongside its economic success the Borough has areas 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 to reflect our ambition to deliver a high quality of life for all.

The LAA has been devised to strengthen our public services and communities to ensure that we can meet the challenges facing the city. It is designed to further promote collaboration locally and with Government to address the less well performing aspects of the City.

The enabling measures sought are designed to provide additional flexibility and opportunity to make a difference faster.

Communities of interest also experience inequalities in terms of education, employment and health outcomes. Communities of interest may include minority ethnic groups, children in care, people with physical or learning disabilities or mental health needs. Partners are committed to delivering equality of outcomes for all members of the community. The LAA reflects this through its targets.

An analysis of school results has identified inequalities in the educational attainment of pupils from disadvantaged groups and has been identified as a target area in the children and young people's block. The Safer and Strong Communities block includes a priority to improve community cohesion and reduce racial tension in the county through an in depth assessment of hot spots around the county.

Milton Keynes has a strong partnership culture which has a clear and distinctive vision set out in the *Milton Keynes Community Strategy: Our handbook for Change 2004-2034*. The LAA will form 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 to support us in providing

even better delivery of the national agenda and our local ambition to “close the gap”. 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 that meets the needs of a changing population and ensures that good quality homes are available to all.
- Ensuring community involvement and cohesion is developed as the City grows and its diversity increases.
- Continuing to develop and maintain 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 our existing LPSA2 programme.

## **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 the 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, building to 320,000 people by 2030. Milton Keynes people 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 and a significant influx of non-uk nationals e.g. Poles and Somalis. 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. One of the potential future priorities of the LAA is likely to help non-English speaking citizens gain access to the workforce. Success is dependant on the fortune of an enabling measure with Central Government. We are in discussion with partners to facilitate a research project to understand numbers and need. This may lead to new indicators and targets in a later refresh.

### **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 linking 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 high level of car usage does generate a significant amount of car parking income, but the restrictions placed on how this is spent prevents creative solutions to solve some of MK’s pressing problems.

Surrounding the city is rural countryside comprising small villages and a number of economically fragile market towns.

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

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 in a sustainable way.

The city has, via Milton Keynes Economy and Learning Partnership, adopted a challenging Economic Vision to support the achievement of the Community Strategy (see Appendix A). From New Town to International City identified five transformational projects that, if implemented will deliver the step change we aspire to:

- An integrated approach to marketing inward investment and business support.
- The establishment of a University for Milton Keynes.

- Capitalising on the research strengths of the Open University and Cranfield University to create a thriving centre for knowledge based industries.
- Creating diversity through new styles of housing and cultural development.
- Embedding the 'can do' culture.

Significant progress has been made on these and the LAA will further assist our journey. We recognise the need to set targets for skills for Life and achievement of NVQ Level 2 where we are currently aware of a need to improve performance. There are on going discussions with the LSC to develop these targets.

A further area of concern identified by SEEDA is that funding from BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme) is not reaching SMEs in the Milton Keynes area. Partners are working with SEEDA to address this issue which may also lead to targets and indicators in the refresh process.

### **Inequalities Health and Wellbeing**

We understand the importance of and accept responsibility for the wellbeing of Milton Keynes, our communities and individuals who live and work here. We are mindful of local inequalities and will work to close the gap both in terms of geographic areas and for defined communities and groups.

In doing this we recognise the importance of influencing and affecting matters that improve people's lives beyond narrowly defined service responsibilities. We will achieve this through improving physical and social, environmental and economic wellbeing, reducing the impact of risk factors, promoting protective factors and creating supportive environments.

The overall prosperity of Milton Keynes masks localised inequalities, 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 inequalities and to increase inclusion. We will therefore be monitoring the changes in a range of key indicators and working to address those that 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 (IMD) 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

These areas are already the focus of a three-year Area Programme funded by SEEDA (£1.7m). The Area Programme is addressing four key themes:

- Community capacity building
- Skills development and access to employment
- Enterprise development
- Corporate Social Responsibility

The LAA will build on this work.

Particular issues drawn out by the IMD show that low skills and income deprivation are the most common issues across these geographic areas, coupled with relatively high employment rates. Potentially these are a problem for the competitiveness of the wider city.

Milton Keynes has a number of areas that achieve a low score on the access to services measure. This is concentrated in 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 D.

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.

The Local Public Service Agreement Round 2 is themed around the reduction of health inequalities and the increasing of social inclusion.

The Local Area Agreement has already had an impact in the way that Milton Keynes is approaching some work around healthier communities and older people. The development of a multi- agency stakeholder group around healthier communities and older people has progressed work in a way that all agree would not have occurred without the initial LAA HCOP group.

Although initially formed to inform and shape one block of the LAA it is now the intent that this group will be used as basis for a stakeholder group for a Corporate Health and Wellbeing strategy. The first meeting of this will be in December 2006.

## **Community Safety**

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 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. The LAA reflects our desire to promote both fire and road safety.

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)<sup>1</sup> 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.

These strategic partnerships will have a key role to play in the delivery of the LAA. A number of them have been identified within the LAA as being responsible for the delivery of specific outcomes. The terms of reference of the LAA Group (see 4 below) require it to hold partners to account for the progress they are making towards the agreed outcomes and they will be required to show the LAA Group at regular intervals that satisfactory progress is being made.

It is important that partners and strategic partnerships do not work within silos in the delivery of LAA outcomes. The governance framework referred to below will require the LSP Executive to ensure that there are effective reporting chains between partners. Strategic partnerships will be a key link in this reporting chain. The detail of how the delivery of outcomes and how the linkages are being achieved will be incorporated into the six monthly report to government.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> CPA feedback 2006

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 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.

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.

#### 4. Local Area Agreement Governance Arrangements

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 the following governance framework can achieve these aims:

##### *LAA Governance Framework*

##### Role of LSP Executive (LSPE)

The structure of the LSPE will continue as at present pending the outcome of the review of the LSP that is scheduled for completion in mid 2007.

However, whilst the LAA Group (referred to below) will be responsible for the day to day management of the LAA, the LSPE will be required to satisfy itself that:

- a. Robust indicators are underpinned with the data flows necessary to assess performance at regular intervals
- b. Targets are realistic, measurable, evidenced and timed
- c. There are effective reporting chains between partners on progress against targets
- d. Performance data is transparent and accessible
- e. There are effective mechanisms in place to correct continued under performance
- f. There are satisfactory action plans in place to address failing targets.
- g. Identify early key issues that have the potential to undermine performance.

In addition the LSPE will require a performance report from the LAA group every six months. The LSPE will need to be satisfied that satisfactory progress is being made under all outcomes/targets before signing off this report for submission to the Government.

It is recognised that there are other reporting frameworks that partners have to adhere to. Should conflicts arise regarding the delivery of outcomes, targets or indicators the LSPE will be responsible for co-ordinating a meeting between the parties concerned in an attempt to resolve such conflict/identify a way forward.

### Establish a LAA group

- a. This group will comprise:
  - i. one member of LSPE (see below)
  - ii. the lead officer for performance management (see below),
  - iii. a representative from each of the four blocks
  - iv. a representative from the voluntary and community sector
- b. It is suggested that contributing to the delivery of the LAA should be shared across as many partners as possible. Therefore it is recommended that the responsibility for providing the secretariat to this group be sought from a partner that has not already taken on the responsibility for another LAA function e.g. managing the performance management system
- c. The terms of reference of this group will be:
  - i. To oversee the LAA on behalf of the LSPE
  - ii. To draw up, negotiate with government and then deliver a set of localised targets linked to national and local priorities within the wider framework of the local community strategy.
  - iii. To ensure that the appropriate performance management processes are in place
  - iv. To monitor progress on a regular basis and hold partners to account for the progress they are making towards the agreed outcomes and the commitments they have made
  - v. To provide coordination of those outcomes.
  - vi. To ensure action plans are in place to address those indicators, outcomes and targets that are failing.
  - vii. To identify emerging issues and priorities within Milton Keynes and to make recommendations to the LSPE about ways in which the LAA might be refreshed and updated over time.
  - viii. To submit a performance report to the LSPE every six months examining progress against the indicators, outcomes and targets, timed to precede the completion of 6-monthly progress reports to the Government Office.
  - ix. To take responsibility for taking forward follow-up actions sought by the LSPE.
  - x. To oversee the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy

NB. To date the monitoring of the LPSA targets has been undertaken by the Social Inclusion and Health Inequalities (SIHI Group). It is proposed that, in future, the LPSA targets will be monitored by the LAA Group.

### Champion for LAA

An LSPE member be nominated to be champion for the LAA. This member to be chair of the LAA group.

### LAA Scrutiny Arrangements

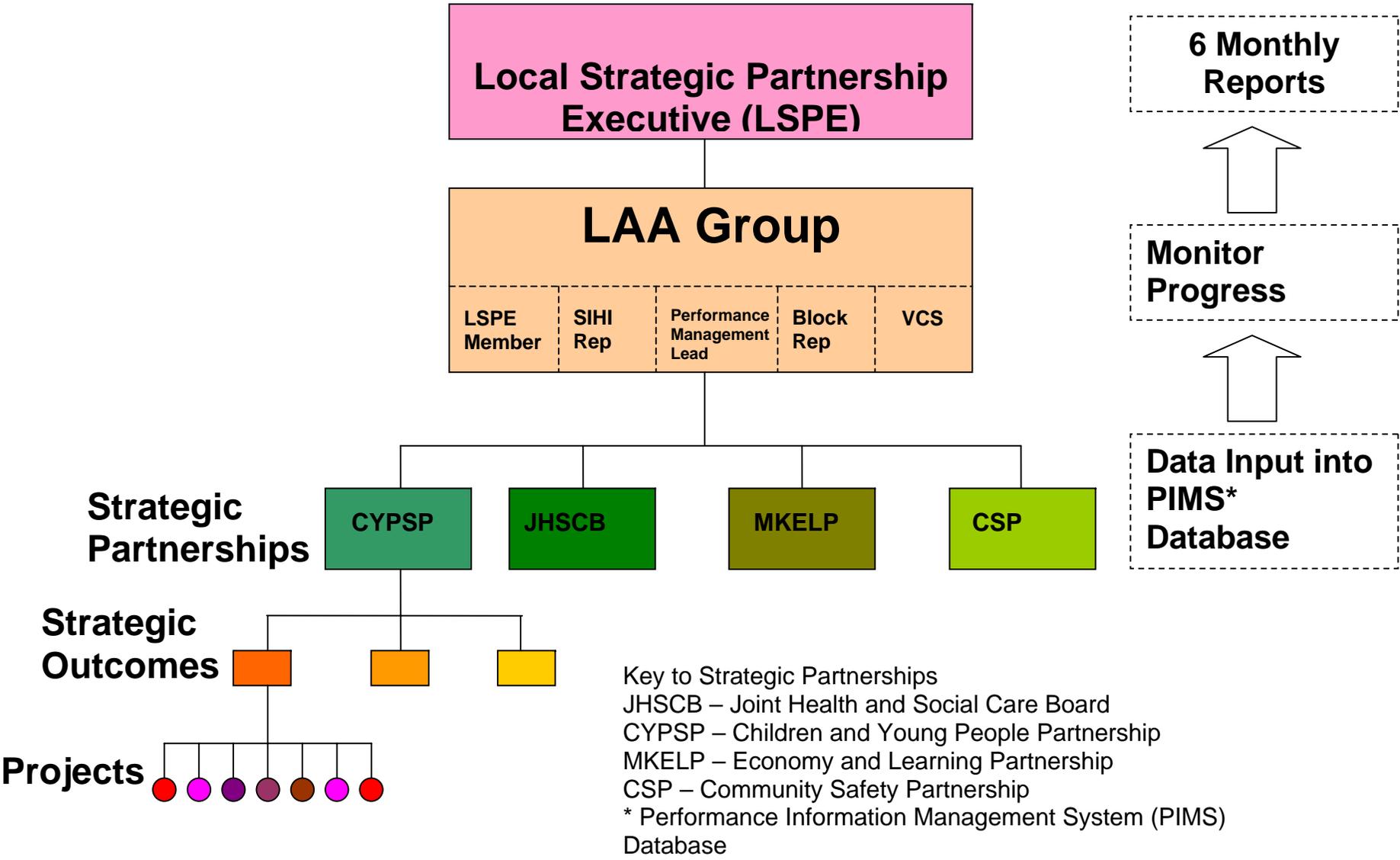
It is important that any proposal to scrutinise the LAA does not become over bureaucratic. The arrangements for the scrutiny of a number of the outcomes and targets within the draft LAA may already be in place across a number of agencies (see below).

The Local Government White Paper proposes that new best practice will be developed for Overview and Scrutiny. It is therefore suggested that the LSPE undertake the overall scrutiny of the LAA, subject to this being reviewed upon receipt of the government's proposals.

Identify arrangements for co-ordination of performance management

- a. Locally, all partners will maintain their own existing performance reporting systems. All organizations must be responsible for the data quality of the information used to inform the LAA and to report against its targets. All data and management information used in the LAA needs to be robust, accurate, reliable and secure.
- b. Milton Keynes Council could support performance reporting by including the LAA targets within the existing Performance Information Management system (PIMS), which is IT based. The successful use of this system would rely upon responsible officers entering performance information for targets that they are responsible for. Performance reports could then be generated as required with the LSPE.
- c. Block leads, being the owners of the targets, will be required to report to the LAA group indicating the progress they are making in the delivery of targets.
- d. The Block leads will identify a named individual to manage each outcome, target and performance indicator.
- e. Each individual will be responsible for coordinating the initiatives and reporting results to the Block Leads. The advantage of this structure is that it will generate interdisciplinary activity due to the range of agencies from which these individuals are drawn.

# LAA Governance/Reporting Structure



## **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:



### Pooled Funding for Round 3 LAAs

Block	Funding Stream	Allocation					
		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
		Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
SSC	Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant	£246,831.34	£246,831.34				
CYP	Travel to school Initiative (School Modal Shift Grant)		£29,000				
SSC	Anti social behaviour safer communities	£73,223 (based on 06/07 figures) £25,000 ASB Grant (no Capital or revenue split)	£197,973 (based on 06/07 figures)				
SSC	Drugs Partnership Support Grant		£65,900				
SSC/EDE	Rural, Social & Community Programme		£17,153.85				



## 6. Proposed Enabling Measures – Business Cases

Ref	Enabling Measure	Description	Block	Lead
1	Retail 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 of 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	Power for a proportion of fines following criminal conviction at the Magistrates Court to be used for crime prevention	S&SC	R Solly
5	Relax home office regulations	In view of the special circumstances generated by the growth of Milton Keynes, greater flexibility is requested in determining how national crime reduction targets will be applied in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.	S&SC	R Solly
6	LAGBI	To renegotiate the formula relating to the calculation of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme as applied to Milton Keynes.	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	To relax the capital/revenue split within a range of initiatives/funding pots that is specified by national and/or regional funding organisations when funding local projects.	ED&E	C Fox
9	Clawback	Request that clawback is retained in the local area, ringfenced for local regeneration	HC&O P	J Strong
10	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
11	Self Certification - Planning	Various planning applications must be referred to GOSE under DCLG planning directions linked to the following circulars: 1. Residential development on greenfield	ED&E	I Haynes

		land (Circular 8/00) 2. Shopping development direction (Circular 15/93) 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.		
12	Longer Term Funding agreement	MK has received government for funding for growth through various mechanisms - eg CIF, GAF, PDG The request is for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More certainty, in terms of future funding -</li> <li>• More flexibility, in terms of how quickly the money must be spent and on what</li> </ul>	ED&E	I Haynes
13	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"> <li>• Remove the restrictions within the HB regulations which prevent 18-25 year olds from receiving housing benefit for private sector accommodation,</li> <li>• Lift the market rent restrictions which prevent under occupation by couples of three bedroom properties</li> </ul>	HC&O P	J Bilson
14	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
15	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
16	Car Parking	To use the money received from car parking for other initiatives. Supporting actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development of Safer Routes to Schools</li> <li>• Safety schemes to be established for vulnerable groups eg older people and those with disabilities</li> <li>• Promote rapid and safe transport out of the city centre at night (see under 1.1 above)</li> <li>• Promote safe use of redways</li> <li>• Community safety to receive priority on street/ Redway lighting</li> </ul>	S&SC	K Whiteside

## MK Local Area Agreement - CLOSING THE GAP

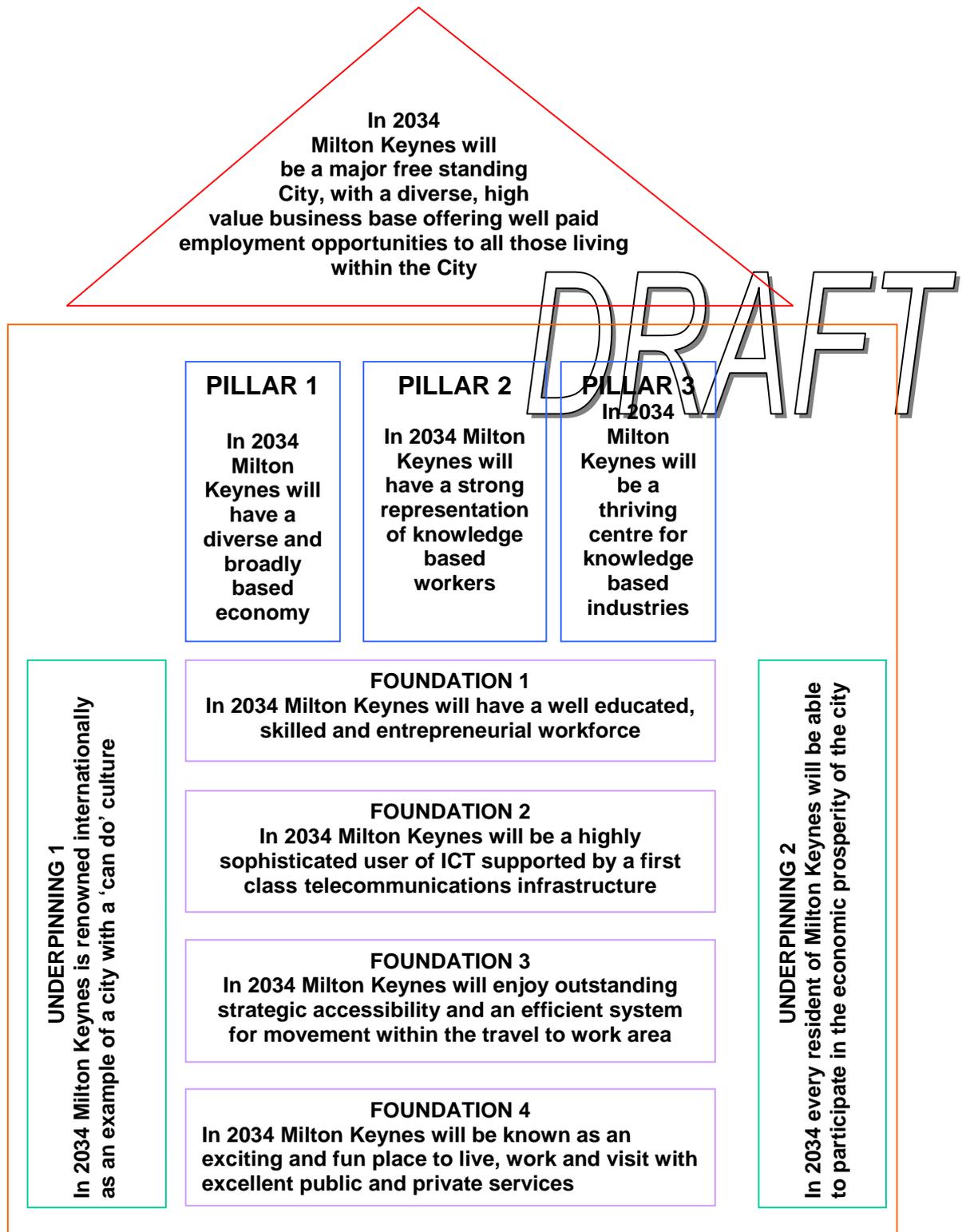
### 7. Outcome Framework

The full outcome framework is attached as a separate document

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# MK Local Area Agreement - CLOSING THE GAP

## Appendix A - Economic Vision



## MK Local Area Agreement - CLOSING THE GAP

### Appendix B - LAA Engagement and Consultation Events

<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Date</b>
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, 7 September
Healthier Communities & Older People Block	21 June, 20 July, 17 August
Parish Representatives	22 July
<b>Partnerships</b>	
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
<b>Council Members</b>	
Health Scrutiny Panel	1 August
CLT/Cabinet	4 September
Lib Dem Leaders Group	7 September
Cabinet	26 September

<b>Communication</b>	<b>Date</b>
Website Launch	May
Members Newsletter	1 June
<a href="#">MK@Work</a>	June Edition
Parish Newsletter	June & August Editions

# MK Local Area Agreement - CLOSING THE GAP

## Appendix C - 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.'<sup>2</sup>

### The Community Engagement Strategy

In MK the LSP have 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. As per December 2006 MKCVO database has 1227 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, Brook and YMCA, as well as national headquarters of World Vision and Spinal Injuries Association.

### ChangeUp and Local Infrastructure

The Local Strategic Partnership in MK has a number of VCS representatives who are actively involved in promoting the sector at a strategic level. The Director of Milton Keynes Council of Voluntary organizations is a member of the LSP Executive Committee. 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.

MKCLIP is represented by the following organizations:

[MK Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)

[Age Concern MK](#)

[MK Racial Equality Council](#)

[Women & Work](#)

[MK Play Association](#)

[MK Council for Voluntary Youth Services](#)

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**2 P 30 Local Area Agreements: Guidance for Round 3 and Refresh of Rounds 1 and 2, ODPM**

## MK Local Area Agreement - CLOSING THE GAP

[Volunteer Centre Milton Keynes](#)  
[Community Foundation](#)  
[Citizens Advice Bureau](#)  
[City Counselling Centre MK](#)  
[MK Cultural Alliance](#)

Milton Keynes Community Local Infrastructure Partnership (MKCLIP) – formerly the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly managed the ChangeUp process in MK. ChangeUp was a Home Office initiative is to build the capacity of frontline voluntary organisations through the development of an efficient and effective infrastructure. The aim is that by 2014, the needs of frontline Voluntary and Community Organisations will be met by infrastructure support which is:

- available nationwide
- structured for maximum efficiency
- offers excellent provision
- accessible to all
- truly reflects and promotes diversity
- sustainably funded.

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MKCLIP developed an infrastructure development plan as part of ChangeUp for Milton Keynes that:

- delivers easy access to support especially for the smaller and medium sized organisations and groups
- strengthens the best of what already exists
- plugs the gaps in current provision
- looks for economies of scale
- reduces duplication
- seeks complementary funding

### **Definition of local voluntary and community infrastructure**

Infrastructure is defined by ChangeUp as, the physical facilities, structures, systems, relationships, people, knowledge and skills that exist to support and develop, co-ordinate, represent and promote front line organisations thus enabling them to deliver against their objectives more effectively. They may be known as ‘umbrella bodies’ or as second tier because they exist/or partly exist to support the first tier or frontline organisation whose role it is to deliver services or give advice direct to individuals or communities, or who campaign and advocate on a specific issue. Local Infrastructure Organisations may be direct service providers too.

Local Infrastructure Organisations are usually generic (supporting all frontline organisations within a particular geographic area) like MKCVO which provides support to all VCOs, or specialist – consisting of those that support a particular sub-sector of the voluntary and community sector, for example Age Concern MK or MK Play Association, or offer a particular area of expertise such as the Community Foundation, for example.

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

The VCS have been involved in the local LAA process at various levels. 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.

#### **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



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sector as a key strategic contributor to the creation and development of sustainable communities, has produced a range of material to promote cultural activity within the LAA. It has been a challenge for the Cultural Alliance to have culture properly integrated into the LAA. There is a sense that despite the acknowledged link to the community strategy the VCS have found engagement with the LAA challenging.

### **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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### **Governance: the future of the LAA**

The delivery of the LAA across the four blocks and how this is managed, monitored, evaluated and developed is the key to its success. Current thinking expresses a need for the VCS to be involved in the continued governance of the LAA. The VCS welcome this and will be represented on each of the block governance teams.

The success of the LAA will depend on the way communities are approached and engaged to understand their service needs. The VCS are the key to reaching communities. Many of the structures and systems that public sector organizations use to try and engage communities are inappropriate. The VCS use methods and techniques rooted in Community Development principles that are often able to unpick and understand the issues facing a community and whether they are able to engage with an issue.

The community development approach set out in the Government's capacity building framework 'Firm Foundations' underpins a vast range of government initiatives which impact on the work of all sectors.

“Community development involves collective action to achieve social justice and change. It describes a process of working with communities to identify needs and take action to meet them.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Firm Foundations, p8

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### Service Delivery

The VCS deliver an enormous range of activity across Milton Keynes. At this stage this is not fully reflected in the LAA.

Through the six monthly refresh process it is hoped that this issue can gradually be addressed. The following describes the role of the VCS in the delivery of specific outcomes in the LAA. Only where there is a substantial contribution has it been documented here.

Block	Outcome	VCS Partner	Action
SSC	1.5 Empower local people to have greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public services	MKCLIP (Milton Keynes Community Infrastructure Partnership)	Increasing the number of people involved in volunteering
CYP	2.1 Create a vibrant, thriving and positive community of young people in Milton Keynes	Brook  YMCA & Partners   YMCA & Partners	Providing contraceptive advice and services Voluntary sector Connexions contract delivering a decrease of young people aged 16-10 not in education employment or training (NEET). Voluntary sector Connexions contract delivering an increase of young people participating in volunteering particularly those from low income families
HCOP	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.	Age Concern	Delivery of benefit advice.
HCOP	3.3 Improved quality of life and	Age Concern	Advising people on accident prevention

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	independence for all vulnerable adults and older people enabling them to remain safely at home for as long as possible		
EDC	4.3 Support for economically inactive	YMCA & Partners  YMCA & Christian Foundation	Voluntary sector Connexions contract delivering a decrease of young people aged 16-10 not in education employment or training (NEET). Voluntary sector contract providing specialist support to increase teenage mothers in education, training and employment (LPSA target 9ii)

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### How have Partners considered the Capacity of the VCS to Contribute to the LAA?

The LAA process in MK has been very intensive and had no initial resources to support this work. The LAA project group has worked hard to involve the VCS and support their effective contribution to the process.

There are some distinct cultural differences between how the VCS and public sector work and there is an element of 'catching up' for a representative from one sector going to meetings mainly attended by members of another sector.

It is important to bear in mind our language, acronyms, terminology and be aware of the relationships we have with others and the histories between people when welcoming in new partners.

All partners must be aware of these issues to ensure we develop full and robust partnerships and working environments that are inclusive and encourage participation from other sectors.

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### Social Capital

Social capital plays a really important part in the work of the VCS and developing positive social capital should be an integral element of an LAA. The Community Development Foundation describes social capital as the increased confidence and capacity of individuals and small groups to get involved with activities and develop supportive networks.

There are three forms of social capital: Bonding, Bridging and Linking. Bonding refers to networks of being developed with people with a common interest such as family, friends, clubs, ethnic groups, who participate in activity together. Bridging is about networks being developed with people who don't have an obvious common interest and would not normally mix, but choose to engage in activity which brings different communities together. A range of interests are voiced and listened to. Linking refers to ties between social groups and agencies who engage in activities that

According to the Improvement and Development Agency, Joseph Rowntree Foundation research has highlighted four influential aspects of social capital development:

- barriers exist at four main levels:
  - personal;
  - political and institutional;
  - economic and cultural; and
  - technical
- people are more likely to get involved if they believe something positive will result
- having a stake in what people do makes a real difference to participation
- building confidence, self-esteem and understanding really helps, especially among those from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities<sup>4</sup>

Of the 1227 existing VCS organizations in MK, data shows 43% have no paid staff, 9% have up to 10 paid staff and 2% have 20 or more paid staff. In the whole of the South East the VCS represents 6% of the workforce and contributes to 3.4% GDP which is higher than the national average. This illustrates the importance of the sector in the development of communities. People engage in activities because it gives them a sense of enjoyment, belonging, fulfillment. Research undertaken by the Institute of Public Policy Research, 'Gateway People' sent the very clear message that people felt that moving to a new area with a sense of community was really important. In terms of LAAs active communities are vital foundations for really understanding local service needs. LAAs are about improving quality of life for communities and there are some anchor indicators that hinge around community influence, community cohesion, social capital and the condition of

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=1367177>

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the VCS which can be developed locally for the refresh process.

### **Perceptions from the VCS**

Some organisations, particularly those who are contracted and commissioned to deliver services have taken the strategic decision to get involved in the process and dedicate resources to ensuring their involvement. However we need to ensure more opportunities are created to also engage non-commissioned organization with limited capacity.

There is a concern about the longevity of the LAA. It is seen as 'yet another Government Initiative' and if the LSP are really asking partners to rethink their ways of working, however well intentioned its ethos, this needs to be rooted to the Community Strategy which has a far greater lifespan than most governments.

There is also a concern that the VCS could be seen to become the delivery arm of the public sector. The danger here is that the VCS loses its innovation and creativity, which is what enables it to do what it does best; engage with and build capacity in communities. Additionally there is limited capacity for organizations to plan and develop in response to the changing agenda, this will need to be address if the true potential of the sector is to be realised.

### **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 representative has been involved the development of the block. The Community Involvement Officer has been invited to attend meetings and has also contributed to the block. There is a sense that despite a wealth of VCS activity which could contribute to this block, and the entire LAA, the criteria for an outcome being included is determined by public sector set performance indicators.

### **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 the Enterprise and Economy block. MKCLIP are in the process of developing a Volunteering strategy which will inform the LAA refresh as volunteering is seen as crucial ingredient in a successful economy. This links to the figures cited in the section about social capital.

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### Safer & Stronger Communities

Milton Keynes Racial Equality Council has had some involvement in the development of the Safer communities block. We have been asked to continue to develop the Community Ambassador's Programme and the Anti-Racial Harassment Group due to their expertise in this area. The REC would however like to see more work done in embedding all the six strands of Equality in all the four blocks of the LAA.

### 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.

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

Age Concern  
Brook  
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue  
Business Link MK, Oxfordshire & Bucks  
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership  
CMK Partnership/Board  
Community Safety Partnership  
Connexions Local Management Committee  
Early Years and Childcare Partnership  
Environmental Partnership  
Gay and Lesbian Link  
Government Office South East  
Jobcentre Plus  
Joint Health and Social Care Board  
Learning & Skills Council  
Local Strategic Housing Partnership  
LSP Representative for people with disabilities  
Milton Keynes Partnership  
MK Association of Local Councils  
MK Association of Urban Parish Councils  
MK Chamber of Commerce  
MK Christian Foundation  
MK College  
MK Community Foundation  
MK Community Local Infrastructure Partnership  
MK Council  
MK Council of Faiths  
MK Council of Voluntary Organizations

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MK Council of Voluntary Youth Services  
MK Drugs Action Team  
MK Economy & Learning Partnership  
MK Parks Trust  
MK Play Association  
MK Primary Care Trust  
MK Racial Equality Council  
MK Sport & Physical Activity Alliance  
South East Regional Development Agency  
Southern & Eastern Regional Trade Union  
Thames Valley Police  
The Cultural Alliance  
The Sports Alliance  
Transport Partnership  
The YMCA in MK

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### Appendix D - 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 which is the local index of social conditions. 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 objective of this strategy is to have the net effect of raising the average of the whole local authority district. The narrative below examines the aspects to be targeted.

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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 eastern 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 with a population of 1,500. The area shows 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 5 SOA's in the ward are in the most deprived 20% nationally, with two of within the 10% most disadvantaged. The ward, as with Netherfield, has been in receipt of Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) funding, which came to an end in March 2006. 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 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 includes 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. The scores for 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 bordering 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 the 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 whole 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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