## CABINET

## When: 6.30 pm - Tuesday 15 December 2020 Where: online

A link will be made available to those entitled to participate by no later than noon the day before the meeting. Members of the public can observe proceedings at https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil

## Public attendance and Covid-19 advice

Given the current Government advice in relation to public gatherings, members of the public will not be able to physically attend this meeting to observe proceedings. A live stream of proceedings is available at the above link.

## Public Questions

The deadline for the submission of public questions is $6: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ on Friday 11 December 2020 and should either be delivered to the address below or sent by email to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk (one question per questioner).

The Chair has the discretion to extend the deadline if the matter is sufficiently urgent and relates to a matter that has arisen in the last 48 hours, subject to the question being submitted a minimum of 30 minutes before the start of the meeting.

## Public Speaking

Persons wishing to speak on an agenda item must give notice by not later than
6.15 pm on the day of the meeting. Requests can be made by email to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk

## Members of the Cabinet

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)
Councillors Baume, Darlington, Middleton, Nolan, O’Neill, Townsend and J Wilson-Marklew.

## Enquiries

Please contact Peter Brown on 01908253671 or Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk / meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

This agenda is available at https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/miltonkeynes/Committees.aspx.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Cabinet Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Leader and members of the Cabinet.
3. Minutes

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 September 2020 (Pages 3 to 17).
4. Disclosures of Interest

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests) they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to declare any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.
5. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public of which notification has been received.
6. Councillors' Items

None received.
7. Councillors' Questions (15 Minutes)

Councillors to ask questions of the Leader of the Council or a Cabinet member on issues within their Portfolio.
8. References from Other Bodies

To consider referrals and their responses (circulated separately).
9. Strategy for 2050

To consider Item 9 (Pages 18 to 36).
10. Child Poverty Commission Recommendations

To consider Item 10 (Pages 37 to 62).
11. Sustainability Action Plan

To consider Item 11 (Pages 63 to 116).
12. Council Tax Base 2021/22

To consider Item 12 (Pages 115 to 121).
13. General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme Forecast Outturn Report for Quarter 2

To consider Item 13 (Pages 122 to 208).
14. Milton Keynes Council Plan - Progress Report

To consider Item 14 (Pages 209 to 222).
milton keynes council

Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUEDAY 1 September 2020 at 6.30 pm .

Present:
Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council).
Councillors Baume, Darlington, Middleton, Nolan, O’Neill and Townsend.
Apologies:
Councillor J Wilson-Marklew
Officers:
M Bracey (Chief Executive), T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), S Bridglalsingh (Director Law and Governance), $S$ Gonsalves (Director Policy, Insight and Communications), S Richardson (Director Finance and Resources), G Snelson (Director Strategy and Futures) P Brown (Head of Democratic Services), N Hutchin (Joint Head of Finance [Deputy Section 151 Officer]), S Lloyd (Policy Manager), M Smith (Strategic Housing Finance Manger), and L Wheaton (Budget and Financial Planning Manager).

## Also Present:

Councillors M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Carr, Crooks, Ferrans, D Hopkins, Jenkins, Marlow, McLean, Lancaster, Rankine and Walker.

## C12 MINUTES

RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 June 2020 be approved and signed by the Leader of the Council as a correct record.

## C13 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None declared.

## C14 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader made announcements:
(a) welcoming Councillor Townsend to the Cabinet; and
(b) congratulating Councillors J Wilson-Marklew, the Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability, and Councillor C Wilson-Marklew on the recent safe arrival of a baby boy.

## C15

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question from Dave Adamson to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services).

Referring to an information note dated 13 August 2020, prepared on behalf of the residents of Oakhill, in relation to the proposal for a children's play area in Oakhill Ward, Mr Adamson asked if Councillor Darlington was able to provide any update on progress and especially in relation to the proposed funding mechanism.

Councillor Darlington referred to the work of Councillor Nolan, dating back to the beginning of 2020, but also noted that the Council's response to the Coronavirus pandemic had impacted the ability of the Environment Team to respond as promptly as it usually would, given the focus on ensuring existing play parks were secured and safe.

Councillor Darlington indicated there were likely to be a number of challenges associated with the proposal, not least the pressure on the Council's finances and the officer resource that could be allocated to the project in the short term. Notwithstanding this, other funding streams were being explored, including grant funding from Wren (FCC Communities Foundation).

As a supplementary question, Mr Adamson asked about potential capital funding from the Council's reserves.

Councillor Darlington, referencing the Council's financial position, indicated that decisions about the use of reserves would need to be carefully considered, which Councillor Middleton would set out in detail, later in the meeting. Councillor Darlington expressed confidence that Councillor Nolan would fully explore potential grant funding opportunities and had a strong track record of having secured such funding.

## C16 <br> COUNCILLORS' ITEMS

None received.

## C17 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

(a) Question from Councillor Crooks to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Crooks explained that he was aware of areas of Brooklands and Broughton Gate that remained 'unadopted' despite housing in the affected areas having been completed and occupied. Councillor Crooks asked if it was permissible for developers not to present small areas for adoption and further, what steps the Council would take to prevent such issues in the future.

Councillor Marland confirmed that he would follow up with Councillor Crooks in relation to specific areas after the meeting, but that land generally remained the responsibility of the landowner, until such time as it was transferred to another owner. Most commonly, developed land was transferred to the local authority as part of the development control process. However, more recently, a practice of transferring the land to management or holding companies, who charged residents fees for the maintenance or upkeep of the land had developed. Councillor Marland advised that regrettably, it was the landowner's prerogative to do so, and having reviewed the position carefully, both in respect of residential areas and green spaces, confirmed that the Council could not compel landowners to transfer land to the Council.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Crooks indicated that the two specific cases his question related to, were small numbers of dwellings and confirmed that he would provide the specific details to Councillor Marland so that he could respond in writing.
(b) Question from Councillor Rankine to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services)

Councillor Rankine, referring to the provision of new parking bays in the Saints Estate in Bletchley, and the programme of verge conversion agreed between West Bletchley Council and Milton Keynes Council, asked why there had been delays with work commencing on St Catherine's Avenue and an ongoing lack of communication from the Highways Department, despite funding having been allocated by West Bletchley Council in 2019.

Councillor Darlington paid tribute to Councillor Wales work in the West Bletchley Parking Forum and that of West Bletchley Council in this area, advising that she was aware of the issue at St Catherine's Avenue, indicating that officers from both West Bletchley Council and Milton Keynes Council had been on site in the previous week. Acknowledging that there had been some delay caused in part by the Coronavirus pandemic, Councillor Darlington explained that the process was more complicated than perceived, because of utility and other services running below verges and difficulty securing consensus about the location of bays, but that she was confident that the project was now back on track and that the Chair of West Bletchley Council was entirely satisfied with the position.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Rankine, referring the communication issues and the requests to him from a number of West Bletchley Town Councillors to escalate the issue, asked if Councillor Darlington would investigate.

Councillor Darlington committed to investigate the issue but indicated that she did not understand such a view to be held by the Chair, or Clerk of West Bletchley Council, who were understanding of the reasons for the delay and felt the relationship between West Bletchley Council and Milton Keynes Council was effective.
(c) Question from Councillor Marlow to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services)

Councillor Marlow, referring to the Council's portfolio of over 11,000 Council homes and acknowledging a reduction in the proportion of homes failing to meet the decent homes standard from $35 \%$ to $13 \%$ since 2018, noted that the Council's performance was still falling desperately short of the national minimum standard, which was $4 \%$.

Councillor Marlow attributed the improvement to the previous regeneration programme and noted the planned cut of component replacement and planned maintenance budget of $£ 32$ million as part of the revised regeneration and renewal strategy, questioning such a heavy focus on renewal, and responsive repairs and maintenance.

Councillor Darlington referred to the HRA business plan which would be considered later in the meeting, suggesting that Councillor Marlow had misunderstood some of the figures.

Councillor Darlington attributed the poor performance in the decent homes standard performance to the lack of planned maintenance undertaken by previous administrations, noting that Councillor Long as her predecessor as portfolio holder, had invested an unprecedented $£ 165$ million, five year planned maintenance programme and efforts would continue to deliver decent homes to some of the most vulnerable residents in the Borough.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marlow asked Councillor Darlington why stakeholders, tenants and leaseholders were only afforded a six-week consultation period to comment on the business plan, suggesting that a longer period would be more appropriate.

Councillor Darlington indicated that as a matter of policy, the standard consultation period at Milton Keynes Council was six weeks, and that this was also reflected in the Council's agreement with Parishes. This was an appropriate amount of time and the consultation would be supplemented by outreach and engagement to ensure those tenants and stakeholders could respond to the consultation, should they wish to.

Councillor Marland added that the original regeneration scheme was brought forward in 2012/13 further to a prevailing view from the previous Conservative administration that many homes that did not meet the decent homes standard were simply not repairable and should be demolished, something which was heavily reflected in the approach to regeneration at the time.

However, upon further inspection it had become clear that the majority of homes could be refurbished and deserved investment. Reflecting on consultation with communities, Councillor Marland indicated that many communities wanted to see community led regeneration as opposed to demolition and commercially driven, privately owned housing.
(d) Question from Councillor R Bradburn to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources)

Councillor Bradburn asked Councillor Middleton for his views on the suggestion from some Councillors that a two-hour free parking scheme for shoppers to Centre:MK be introduced, and what the effect would be on the car parking revenue budget and the Council's broader financial position.

Councillor Middleton, responding to the particular question about the financial impact, noted an existing and very substantial deficit in the parking revenue account, which amounted to $£ 3.5$ million less than originally forecasted in the Council's budget.

Councillor Middleton's understanding was that the effect of two hours free parking scheme for shoppers would increase the deficit by around $£ 1$ million pounds, which would have to be made up from elsewhere and would simply add to the shortfall and potential cuts to highways and public transport budgets later in the year. Further that no explanation had been forthcoming from the Councillors suggesting where the shortfall caused by such a scheme would be met from.

## C18-21 REFERENCES FROM OTHER BODIES

(a) Referral from Council - 17 June 2020: Social Mobility Pledge

Councillor Marland, updating Cabinet on the progress with the commitment made in a previous resolution of Council, made reference to a written response which had been published on the CMIS pages of the Council's website. Councillor Marland indicated that the Social Mobility Pledge was predominantly for business and academic institutions and that no other Councils had signed the pledge to Councillor Marland's knowledge. Notwithstanding this, Councillor Marland gave a commitment to the associated actions, referring to an example in procurement processes where employers would be encouraged to sign the Social Mobility Pledge as part of tendering processes.

## RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) be noted.
(b) Referral from Health \& Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - 24 June 2020: Re-opening of Day Centres

The referral was introduced by Councillor Jenkins, the Chair of the Committee, who thanked the Cabinet member for the written response, and reaffirmed the importance of day care services and day centres to those with a variety of different needs, noting the effect of such services having been closed during the initial Covid-19 outbreak, on service users and their carers, who relied on them. Councillor Jenkins asked that these vital services be re-instigated as soon as possible.

Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) referring to the published response, agreed that day care centres provided a vitally important service to the most vulnerable communities, but additionally reflected on the disproportionate effect of Covid-19 on those with learning difficulties, indicating that $70 \%$ of deaths in those at risk groups were attributable to Covid-19, compared to $40 \%$ in the general population. Councillor O'Neill reminded the Cabinet that the Council's primary responsibility was to protect life and this needed to be balanced against the benefit of centres reopening.

## RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) be noted.
(c) Referral from Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee - 14 July 2020: Funding for Child Poverty Commission recommendations.

Councillor Carr, the Chair of the Committee, introduced the referral, requesting clarification of the funding that would be allocated to support the interim recommendations of the Child Poverty Commission. Reflecting on the high priority of the work and its inclusion in the Council plan, assurances were sought that funding would be available to implement the recommendations.

Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families) referred to the written response, emphasizing that the area was a priority for the administration and additionally thanking Councillor Carr for her work to support the establishment of the Commission. Councillor Nolan advised that there would not be a ringfenced budget because of the cross-cutting nature of the work required, but that the final report would be received by Cabinet in December and where the necessary, actions would be considered.

RESOLVED:
That the written response provided by Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families) be noted.
(d) Referral from Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 25 June 2020

Councillor Crooks, the Chair of the Committee, introduced the referral, thanking Councillor O'Neill and Derys Pragnell (Head of Public Health Programmes) for their excellent presentations at the meeting and further emphasised the Committee's commitment to estate renewal, and the avoidance of demolition, unless absolutely necessary.

Councillor Crooks referred to the emphasis on reducing obesity and the poor state of maintenance of some Redways on very established settlements, which were not conducive to improved usage or levels of physical activity. Secondly that the health and social outcomes for individuals were significantly impacted by early years development and highlighted the need for effective intervention programmes.

Councillor Crooks also referenced the HRA business plan papers and suggested the importance of contemporaneous data, particularly the social deprivation index, so that the focus of work could be adapted as new areas of deprivation arose and could be promptly addressed via regeneration work. Additionally, Councillor Crooks suggested that given the focus on health and other issues, alongside bricks and mortar regeneration, there would be a need for regeneration work to be supplemented with funds from the General Account as well as the Housing Revenue Account.

As the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor O'Neill responded, referring to the written response and thanking the committee for highlighting the issue of health inequality. Noting that well paid jobs were helpful to improve health and that a focus on attracting employers was understandable, Councillor O'Neill indicated the need to focus on educational attainment and skills in order to support residents to secure better paid employment.

As the Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Housing Services, Councillor Darlington advised that she and Councillor Baume were committed to working together to deliver a revised Regeneration Strategy in line with the HRA business plan and that the indices of multiple of deprivation would be used to prioritise areas for renewal. Councillor Darlington also reminded the Cabinet of the additional $£ 500,000$ investment in Annex W of the 2020/21 budget, which was in addition to base funding for Redway improvements and reflective of ambitious plans to extend the network to Newport Pagnell, the Lakes Estate and other areas.

## RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) be noted.

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN
The Cabinet considered the Covid-19 economic recovery plan. Councillor Baume (Cabinet member for Economy and Culture) introduced the item, recognising that residents and businesses in Milton Keynes had been badly affected by the pandemic and were entering the worse recession in modern history, adding that businesses were also having to plan for Brexit and the potential of a 'no deal' scenario.

The Cabinet heard that the Council had already done much work to support the recovery, noting section 2.2 of the report, a list of urgent actions already taken, which had benefited one in three local businesses.

Councillor Baume reflected that whilst the Council was facing significant challenges, the extraordinary circumstances and the disproportionate effect of a recession and rising unemployment on young people and women, required an extraordinary response, and that a package of support worth over 2.25 million would support a green recovery and the most vulnerable.

Introducing a short video, which included some of the businesses and stakeholders who helped to develop the action plan, Councillor Baume thanked all those who had contributed to the recovery plan and to Councillor Darlington who had led the work whilst Councillor Baume was recovering from illness, Councillors Middleton and J Wilson-Marklew alongside Councillor McCall, whose Group had contributed time and ideas.

The Cabinet heard that the Economy Team had been strengthened with the creation of a new post of Strategic Lead for Economy and Policy, to ensure there were the resources to ensure the recovery plan would be fully implemented.

The Cabinet heard from Councillors Rankine, Ferrans and Walker, in consideration of the item.

In response Councillor Darlington:

- welcomed any ideas from councillors to strengthen the local recovery;
- advised that whilst one post had been lost from the Economy Team, more had been added, resulting in a net increase in posts, and that demonstrable cross sector engagement work with the business community had been achieved during the pandemic;
- $£ 200,000$ was set aside to support Centre:MK's recovery, which would be utilised in conjunction with the Business Improvement District;
- agreed the importance of a 'future focus' with a need for new businesses and employment to stimulate the economy;
- the Covid Recovery Framework had addressed the issue of the need to support BAME communities as part of the recovery, but that this would be at the centre of the Council's thinking throughout the recovery; and
- $\quad £ 2$ billion pounds worth of shovel ready schemes were being identified as part of the Covid Recovery Framework, agreed by Councillor Marland, some of which were already being assessed by government.

Councillor Marland thanked officers for their work to develop the plan, highlighting the $£ 500,000$ for a green recovery, the need for innovation and technologies that would be in place for generations and that that would power the recovery, as opposed to investing in traditional, conventional technology.

Noting the economic impact of Covid-19 on the hospitality sector and process driven jobs and the disproportionate effect on young people and women Councillor Marland emphasised the importance of retraining and reskilling to enable those groups to access new and different jobs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Covid19 Economic Recovery Action Plan be agreed.
2. That funding of $£ 2,162,880$ be allocated to the projects listed in Annex $B$ subject to further development, where required, and final sign-off by the S151 officer.
3. That within 6 months:
(a) any budget released from schemes in this current round be allocated once they have been subjected to the final sign-off process;
(a) a process for schemes to bid for the $£ 500,000$ green business recovery fund allocated in Annex B through this decision, be run; and
(b) the $£ 87,120$ balance remaining of the budget be allocated to further business support schemes.

## C23 REFRESH OF THE HRA BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA CAPITAL FINANCING INVESTMENT PLAN

The Cabinet considered the HRA business plan and HRA capital financing investment plan. The item was introduced by Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services), who thanked Council staff for their work to bring the refreshed business plan forward.

Councillor Darlington outlined that the plan was now out to consultation, would be scrutinised by the Community \& Housing and Budget \& Resources Scrutiny Committees and that the Cabinet were very keen to hear people's views and ideas. Thanking Councillor Middleton for hiss assistance with the work to prepare the business plan, Councillor Darlington indicated that the plan was fully financed and deliverable.

Noting the ambitious targets, Councillor Darlington referenced the recent dissolution of Your:MK because of its failure of delivery and highlighted key points from the business plan:

- a reconfirmed commitment to 500 new council homes by 2022 and a further 700 homes by 2030;
- an acquisitions programme and regeneration programme, which alongside new build, would increase the Council's total stock from around 11,000 to 13,195 over the ten-year period of the plan; and
- $£ 165$ million investment in current council stock of which $£ 50$ million would be green investment.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Ferrans and two members of the public in consideration of the item. In response, Councillor Darlington:

- reminded Cabinet that in addition to the HRA business plan which was a financial plan, the Regeneration Strategy was also out to consultation, which would set out policy positions and would utilise correct data points to inform its delivery;
- advised that the seven original estates would not be forgotten as part of the business plan and that the Council would be led by indices of multiple deprivation data to focus regeneration work, which required more than just bricks and mortar, but also areas such as health and wellbeing, or jobs and skills; and
- emphasised that social value was increasingly important and that there would be a procurement focus on local providers and supply chains wherever possible.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft Housing Revenue Account Business Plan be approved for consultation with council tenants and leaseholders.
2. That consultation lasts for six weeks starting on 14 September with the final version of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan being considered by Cabinet at its 15 December 2020 meeting.
3. That the proposed Prudential Indicators set out in Annex D of the report are approved. The financial limits will be presented to Cabinet at its 15 December 2020 meeting as part of the draft budget proposals.
4. That Cabinet note the current draft Business Plan Model at Annex B of the report (which sets out the projected 30 year forecast based on achieving Decent Homes Standard and delivery of the approved new build, acquisition and regeneration capital programme) and at Annex C of the report, which outlines a forecast of the potential cost of future investment based on the ambitions in the HRA Business Plan. LAKES ESTATE

The Cabinet considered the Procurement Strategy for Phase A of the Regeneration of the Lakes Estate. Councillor Darlington introduced the item, noting the many promises of investment that had been made to residents over time and expressing pleasure that progress was now being made.

Referencing the reports' formality in setting out the procurement approach, Councillor Darlington again highlighted the social value, in promoting local providers and employment.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Rankine in consideration of the item. Referencing Councillor Rankine's concerns about the affordability and effectiveness of proposals for a district heating centre scheme on the estate, Councillor Darlington indicated that reduction in carbon and tackling fuel poverty were critically important to residents, that the technology was not new and that she did not share any of Councillor Rankine's concerns.

RESOLVED:

1. That, subject to planning, approval be given to prepare an open tender to procure contractors to deliver Phase A of the Lakes Estate.
2. That the scheme be packaged and tendered in Lots.

## C25 UPDATE ON UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

The Cabinet considered an update in respect of unauthorised encampments, which was introduced by Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Community Safety). Referring to the Council's Unauthorised Encampment Plan, which had been agreed at Cabinet in July 2108, Councillor Townsend updated Cabinet on progress to date, reflecting on the need to strike a balance between the statutory requirement to meet the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people and the need to ensure that communities felt safe and listened to.

Noting the importance of effective communication, Councillor Townsend outlined work undertaken in this area and in particular, highlighted joint communications prepared by the Council and Thames Valley Police, which set out the relevant steps required in response to unauthorised encampments. Updating the Cabinet, Councillor Townsend advised that:

- there were presently three reported unauthorised encampments in the Borough;
- there was a continuing reduction in the numbers of encampments;
- the environmental crime team deserved recognition for their responsive and collaborative approach to tacking unauthorised encampments;
- physical security had been improved at sensitive sites;
- a clear procedure had been developed to deal with threats or safety issues that encampments might present, alongside welfare and safeguarding issues; and
- further work was required in relation to long terms solutions.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Lancaster, Bradburn and Ferrans in consideration of the item.

Responding to points raised, Councillor Townsend advised that the number and incidents of unauthorised encampments had decreased since 2018, but acknowledged that this was in part due to the effects of Covid-19.

Noting that of the funds allocated to defences, around $£ 60,000$, remained unspent, Councillor Townsend indicated that not all sites could be protected comprehensively because of cost, or the effect on access and enjoyment of the public to open space, but that the funds remained available for new sites as they emerged.

Additionally, Councillor Townend committed to continue to review communication channels and timeliness with a view to improve the position further and further that a community safety need assessment would need to be undertaken at the transit site.

Councillor Marland advised Cabinet that whilst the matter was indeed an emotive and sensitive one, the Council would work hard to balance protecting settled communities from issues associated with unauthorised encampments, and respecting everyone's rights in law. Councillor Marland also informed Cabinet that the Council had a responsibility under the Equalities Act, reminding all Councillors of the need to be mindful of their responsibilities in this regard.

RESOLVED:
That the Cabinet note the update on the agreed action plan on unauthorised encampments.

## C26 <br> FORECAST OUTTURN FOR QUARTER 1, 2020/21: GENERAL FUND REVENUE, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT, DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME \& COVID-19 FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Cabinet considered the forecast outturn for quarter 1, 2020/21: general fund revenue, housing revenue account, dedicated schools grant and capital programme \& covid-19 financial update, which was introduced by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources). Referring to the detailed nature of the report, Councillor Middleton thanked the s. 151 officer and the finance team for their work to compile the information.

Reflecting on the context to the report and in particular the impact of a global pandemic, Councillor Middleton noted the very modest forecast overspend of $£ 150,000$ on day to day operational costs, which excluded direct costs of the pandemic and thanked staff for their financial diligence and management.

Councillor Middleton highlighted particular areas of the report, including:

- the cost of temporary accommodation;
- severe pressures in children's social care;
- pressures in the home to school transport budget; and
- management restructures creating savings of around $£ 500,000$.

Referring to Councillor Bradburn's earlier question, Councillor Middleton set out the position in respect of the Council's reduced parking income, noting a $60-75 \%$ reduction compared to pre pandemic forecasts and indicating that the position was unlikely to recover in the near future. This represented a $£ 3$ million shortfall in the parking revenue account, which would impact on important areas, such as subsidised bus routes and investment in the highway network.

Councillor Middleton drew the Cabinet's attention to Annex M of the report, which set out the effect of the pandemic on the Council's finances over the previous six months, explaining additional funds had been allocated to support the Council's response to the pandemic, particularly and additional $£ 2$ million in adult social care, which had included additional payments to care homes, PPE funding and payment guarantees to affected providers.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Rankine in consideration of the item. Responding Councillor Middleton advised that:

- the $£ 16$ million of general support funds provided by government was welcome and had been completely allocated and spent to offset Covid-19 related costs, but was insufficient given the steepest recession in over 300 years;
- the s. 151 officer would respond separately and in writing in relation to questions and suggestions related to risk forecasting models and which band applied to the Council; and
- that the biggest threat to local government finances was not a local lockdown scenario, rather the severity of the recession and the levels of support that would be provide by government and the Bank of England.


## RESOLVED

1. That the GFRA forecast outturn of $£ 0.153 \mathrm{~m}$ overspend before the impact of covid-19 be noted, together with the management actions set out at annex a of the report.
2. GFRA planned savings of $£ 0.728 \mathrm{~m}$ have been achieved ( $17 \%$ of the annual savings target). By the 31 march it is forecast that $£ 3.330 \mathrm{~m}$ savings will be achieved (77\%), leaving a shortfall of $£ 0.997 \mathrm{~m}$ (23\%) which is set out in annex $b$ of the report.
3. That the forecast outturn on the HRA is break even, after an increase in the transfer to reserves be noted, together with the management actions set out at annex c of the report.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL OUTLOOK [2021/22 TO 2024/25]
The Cabinet considered the medium term financial outlook [2021/22 to 2024/25], which was introduced by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources). The Cabinet heard that the report forecasted the position in the coming four years, noting the difficulty of doing so given the current recession and financial uncertainty.

Councillor Middleton, referring to an earlier statement from Councillor Walker, offering assistance to relay local financial difficulties to government via the Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes, accepted the offer and made clear that the forthcoming budget round would be extremely challenging, given the likely effect of unemployment and falls to Gross Domestic Product. Councillor Middleton suggested that unless central funding assurances were provided, the Council would need to start considering cuts to subsidised bus services and leisure services.

Councillor Middleton noted some immediate local financial impacts of the pandemic, including:

- a 7\% increase in the draw on the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (equivalent to $£ 2$ million);
- a $1 \%$ drop in Council Tax collection rates (equivalent to $£ 1.5$ million); and
- a $3.5 \%$ drop on Business Rates collection rates (equivalent to $£ 4$ million).

The Cabinet heard that the local government settlement would not be received until December which presented very real difficulties in agreeing a draft budget and consulting, before Council could agree it in time for the new financial year.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Bradburn in consideration of the item.
RESOLVED:

1. That the budget scenarios out in Table 2 of the report, be noted.
2. That the approach to addressing the Council's MTFP gap, as set out in paras 3.34 to 3.41 , be noted.
3. That the Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) continue to develop detailed proposals to facilitate the delivery of a robust and sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The Cabinet considered the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/22, which was introduced by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources).

Councillor Middleton advised that a decision was required to amend the scheme 'in year' to adjust notification requirements, meaning that less correspondence would therefore need to be sent to individuals where there were very small changes to their bills.

RESOLVED:
That the proposed change to the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme, introducing a $£ 0.50$ a week tolerance rule, to go forward for 8 weeks public consultation.

## MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL PLAN

The Cabinet considered and update to progress with the Council Plan which was introduced by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council), who reminded Cabinet that the Council Plan was agreed in June.

Councillor Marland reflected that the plan had a reduced number of priorities in order to respond to the pandemic and focus on recovery noting that in addition to responding to the pandemic, the Council had continued to deliver day to day operational services, notwithstanding the various challenges presented.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Rankine in consideration of the item and in response Councillor Marland committed to providing accompanying performance indicators to the Council Plan objectives.

RESOLVED:
That the progress being made on the Council Plan 2016-2022 be noted.
THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.40 PM.

## Cabinet report

## 15 December 2020

## Strategy for 2050

| Name of Cabinet Member | Councillor Pete Marland <br> Leader of the Council |
| :--- | :--- |
| Report sponsor | Geoff Snelson <br> Director of Strategy and Futures |
| Report author | Fiona Robinson <br> MK Futures Programme Manager <br> fiona.robinson@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 |
| Exempt / confidential / not <br> for publication | No |
| Council Plan reference | Ref number 33 |
| Wards affected | All wards |

## Executive summary

The Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 sets the way forward for the next era of making our great city greater. Creating a long-term strategy was a recommendation of the MK Futures 2050 Commission. Public and stakeholder engagement has been extensive and included a draft strategy published for comment in January 2020 for 18 -weeks and a subsequent 5 -week long review of the impacts of COVID-19. The Strategy sets out a long-term approach to spatial development. It aims for a steady population increase to around 410,000 people in the borough by 2050 as the best means of achieving Seven Big Ambitions.

The Strategy includes a commitment to provide essential infrastructure and services, including a Mass Rapid Transit System. It also commits to keep and strengthen those things that make Milton Keynes special - green spaces and trees, being able to move around easily using grid roads and redways, a vibrant economy and diverse communities and a strong community spirit. It includes proposals to help achieve the council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to support the mental and physical health of the community. The Strategy has been prepared to provide ambition and focus at a time of great uncertainty but to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. A revised MK Futures 2050 programme is recommended to re-focus effort on delivery of the strategy, as is a partnership approach with national government.

## 1. Decisions to be made

### 1.1 That the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 be approved.

1.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Strategy become an Annex to the Council Plan and is approved as such.
1.3 That Cabinet commits to receiving a revised MK Futures 2050 programme by the end of June 2021.
1.4 That a partnership approach to implementing the strategy with government and its agencies, including Homes England, be agreed.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

Background
2.1 The Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 sets the way forward for the next era of making our great city greater. It is a strategy for everyone living in Milton Keynes today, especially the children and young people who will be our future citizens, as well as those who will choose to move here to be part of a globally leading green city.
2.2 The need for a new strategy was identified by the MK Futures 2050 Commission established by the council in 2015 to help create a vision for the next phase of our city's journey. The Commission's report, Making a Great City Greater, was published in July 2016 and proposed that Milton Keynes should grow to a population of around 400,000 people by 2050 and set out a broad approach for where that development could happen. The vision and direction of their findings received unanimous support from the different political groups on Milton Keynes Council and have provided the basis for the Strategy.

Why is a strategy required - now?
2.3 Milton Keynes is a living example of how well-planned growth can produce better lives and better places. Effective planning allows us to strengthen what works well and make sure every resident in every part of Milton Keynes can benefit from the city's economic prosperity. This includes making available the infrastructure and services that are essential for both existing and new communities. The Strategy for 2050 includes a commitment to provide city-wide green space alongside other essential infrastructure and services so that development does not put pressure on our communities and environment. It includes proposals that will help achieve the council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, deliver inclusive development that helps reduce poverty, and support the mental and physical health of the community.
2.4 By planning upfront and over the long-term we can make the case for investments that will serve us well into the future, rather than reacting as pressures arise. This is especially important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic recession. Having a clear vision and commitment to sustained growth will help attract investment from both public and private sector sources in projects such as MK:U, the new city centre university in partnership with Cranfield University. Our strategic ambition has already proved important in helping attract Government investment into the expansion of Milton Keynes University Hospital.
2.5 A clear plan created by the council provides more local democratic control over development so we can ensure it is done well and that local people are involved in decisions about their communities. If we lack a clear vision then housebuilders would have greater influence over the timing and location of development, and this would mean unplanned growth without all the infrastructure our communities need.
2.6 Failure to build enough homes will lead to even greater increases in house prices than in recent years, making it ever more difficult for our residents and their children to afford a home to buy or rent. Aiming to slow or stop the city from growing would undermine our economy so fewer jobs would be created and we would have less to invest in public services and the upkeep of our existing infrastructure. The heaviest burdens would fall on our most disadvantaged people, a risk that is even more severe as we face the economic challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The process for creating the Strategy for 2050
2.7 The strategy has been developed through the MK Futures 2050 programme that has been responsible for delivering the Six Big Projects recommended by the MK Futures Commission. The programme of work has included a series of detailed evidence studies covering issues such as growth locations, Mass Rapid Transit and the city's future economy. Key evidence studies have recently been reviewed to test their assumptions against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full range of studies has been published on the MK Futures 2050 website (www.MKFutures2050.com).
2.8 Public and stakeholder engagement has been a central feature of the MK Futures programme since it was established in 2016. A communications strategy has been delivered over the period of its operation, including regular briefings for city stakeholders and public engagement via social media, regular local radio slots and presentations at numerous public events. A major exhibition was held in Middleton Hall during 4-7 July 2019 and seen by 121,000 people, a $41 \%$ uplift in visitors to that part of the shopping building over the same weekend in 2018. A dedicated project stream was created to engage young people which included "Forging the Future", a series of sessions attended by three local secondary schools to look at different aspects of the MK Futures 2050 programme. Outputs from these sessions are included in the Strategy for 2050.
2.9 A draft strategy was published on $20^{\text {th }}$ January 2020 for an engagement period that was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic to $22^{\text {nd }}$ May 2020. This included a programme of public meetings within the borough and immediately neighbouring areas that was largely completed prior to COVID-19 restrictions being implemented. Meetings were subsequently held virtually, where requested, and a narrated version of the engagement presentation was posted on the MK Futures website. A further 5-week long round of engagement was held during June-July 2020 to seek views on the impact of COVID-19 on key elements of the strategy. Dedicated reviews were also undertaken of the potential impact of COVID-19 and the associated economic recession on key policy elements including the prospects for housing and jobs growth, the operation of Mass Rapid Transit, and the design of homes and communities.
2.10 A Supporting Statement (Annex B) has been prepared to summarise the engagement process undertaken on the Strategy for 2050 and includes a highlevel summary of the comments received during the two engagement periods during 2020. It also explains how this has been used to revise and refine the final Strategy. A more comprehensive summary of the comments received has also been prepared with details of how these have been considered in the final Strategy (available at MKFutures2050.com).

## Strategy focus

2.11 The Strategy for 2050 offers Seven Big Ambitions which together act as our promise to those living here today and those who wish to make their homes here in future. We will:

- strengthen those qualities that make Milton Keynes special;
- make Milton Keynes a leading green city - by global standards;
- ensure everyone has their own decent home to rent or buy;
- build safe communities that support health and wellbeing;
- provide jobs for everyone by supporting our businesses, and attracting new ones;
- offer better opportunities for everyone to learn and develop their skills; and
- make it easier for everyone to travel on foot, by bike and with better public transport.
2.12 The Strategy aims for growth by a steady population increase to around 410,000 people living in the borough by 2050 as the best means of achieving the Seven Big Ambitions. The flexible development framework of the Strategy can support growth beyond this total under the right conditions, including a strong working partnership with the government that provides investment in the services and infrastructure that a larger city would require.
2.13 The Strategy for 2050 does not specify development sites in our neighbouring areas as that is a decision for the relevant councils and any homes built are counted towards their housing targets. It does anticipate that growth in immediately neighbouring areas, coupled with the growth of the Borough, will see a "Greater Milton Keynes" population of around half a million people by 2050. We hope to work with our neighbours to develop plans that create high quality development and joined up infrastructure and services.

Implementing the strategy
2.14 The Strategy has been prepared during a time of uncertainty in various projects and events which we know could have an impact on its contents and delivery, including the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession, a new relationship with the European Union, the government's intentions for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the "pausing" of the proposed A421 expressway, likely changes to the planning system following the Planning White Paper, and the creation of unitary councils in neighbouring areas. We have used the best available knowledge at the time in preparing the Strategy, which is designed to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. At a time of great uncertainty and volatility it is even more important for us to have a vision of what we are trying to achieve for Milton Keynes.
2.15 The Strategy for 2050 is not a statutory planning document. If adopted, it will provide a high-level policy framework for future statutory local plans. Cabinet are recommended to adopt the Strategy, but to then additionally recommend that the Strategy becomes an Annex to the Council Plan and be approved as such on 20 January 2021. This will have the effect of making the Strategy for 2050 a policy framework document.
2.16 The Strategy for 2050 has been produced through the MK Futures 2050 programme that includes the Six Big Projects recommended by the MK Futures Commission. Having achieved this important milestone of publication of the Strategy it is an appropriate time to review that programme to ensure it is now more strongly focused on action to implement the Strategy.
2.17 Milton Keynes was created with major national investment to meet national strategic priorities. We now need a new and powerful partnership with government. Working closely with government departments and agencies, such as Homes England, on our shared ambitions for long-term, high quality growth will help secure investment by aligning priorities and resources. It will give confidence to our communities that growth is being done properly. We will also aim to work on delivery in partnership with the housebuilding industry and landowners.

## 3. Implications of the decision

| Financial | N | Human rights, equalities, diversity | Y |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Legal | N | Policies or Council Plan | Y |
| Communication | Y | Procurement | N |
| Energy Efficiency | Y | Workforce | N |

## a) Financial implications

None directly from adopting the Strategy. The Strategy includes proposals for development models that will help to secure public and private investment for infrastructure, services and facilities. One-off MKC funding was allocated in the 2020/21 budget to MK Futures implementation studies.

## b) Legal implications

The Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and so has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## c) Other implications

Communications - the Strategy for 2050 has been produced through an extensive stakeholder and public engagement programme that is described in the body of the report.

Human rights/equalities. The Strategy for 2050 has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment that found the strategy advances equality of opportunity in numerous ways and mentions, and has regard to, the need for inclusivity, diversity and meeting the challenge of child poverty. The Strategy recognises the diversity of Milton Keynes as a great strength and sets out policies that will contribute to delivering inclusive growth that benefits everyone in Milton Keynes and helps address child poverty, including increasing the delivery of truly affordable homes, improving access to skills and better jobs, ensuring local facilities and services are accessible to everyone within easy reach of their homes, and delivering a much improved public transport network to aid mobility for all. These are interventions referenced in the final Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission report. The Impact Assessment notes that as the Strategy is delivered, we will need to give attention to the factors that have led to persistent child poverty and focus on designing in access to all and developing a 'welcoming spirit'. These themes are integral to our Strategy but there is a risk they could be disregarded as we deliver our ambitions if they aren't given the right attention.

Energy efficiency. Chapter 3 of the Strategy for 2050 is titled "A sustainable and Green City" and describes strategic policies that will help reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption and require sustainable construction. Elsewhere, the Strategy promotes energy efficient transport and buildings.

Policies and Council Plan. The Strategy for 2050 helps deliver several actions within the Council Plan:

- Action 19 - Support the delivery of a fully electrified East-West Rail and continue to promote better connectivity and infrastructure across the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc.
- Action 23 - Continue to support the development for a Mass Rapid Transport system
- Action 33 - Take back control from developers, progressing a shared vision for the future of the City with MK Futures 2050 and securing proper funding for growth through a Housing Deal
- Action 34 - Progress Plan:MK2 to plan the growth for MK properly, and include appropriate zero carbon housing mix policies that address the needs of Milton Keynes
- Action 41 - Bring forward plans to improve Station Square.
- Action 42 - Bring forward plans to improve CMK market.
- Action 53 - Seek funding from Government for the development of MK:U

The adoption of the Policy is a two-stage process. Cabinet will formally approve its adoption by decision at this meeting, but also recommend that it become an Annex of the Council Plan, effectively becoming a Policy Framework document if agreed by Council in January 2021. Other policies/strategies should then respond accordingly as part of delivery.

## 4. Alternatives

4.1 The alternative option of delaying the publication of the Strategy has been considered and discounted. The Strategy is deliberately designed to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. At a time of great uncertainty and volatility it is even more important for the council to have a vision of what we are trying to achieve for Milton Keynes.

## 5. Timetable for implementation

- Recommendation to Council for $20^{\text {th }}$ January.
- Revised MK Futures 2050 programme by end April 2021.


## List of annexes

Annex A - Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050, November 2020
Annex B - Strategy for 2050 Supporting Statement, November 2020
Note: Annex A not supplied printed with this report as previously supplied to all Councillors.

## List of background papers

MK Futures 2050 Commission "Making a Great City Greater", July 2016
Strategy for 2050 - Engagement Draft, January 2020
Available at www.MKFutures2050.com

## ANNEX B

## MILTON KEYNES STRATEGY FOR 2050 <br> SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, NOVEMBER 2020

This document has been prepared to support the adoption of the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 in order to explain the engagement process and changes that have been made to the Strategy postengagement, and the process moving forward.

## 1. CONTEXT

In 2015, Milton Keynes Council established the MK Futures 2050 Commission to help it plan for the next phase of the city's journey. ${ }^{1}$ The Commission's report "Making a Great City Greater" was published in July 2016 and recommended the council took forward Six Big Projects and the preparation of the Strategy for 2050 in order to put the city in the best possible position for the future. The 'Making a Great City Greater' report proposed a high rate of growth to 2050 as the best way of providing the greatest benefit for the city's population and included a broad approach for how that development might be distributed and this has provided core assumptions used in the development of the Strategy. ${ }^{2}$

The Strategy for 2050 sets out how the long-term future of the city is about achieving quality of life and success that is shared across all our communities, in the context of a scale of growth that would take our borough population to around 410,000 people by 2050.

## Geographical Coverage

The Strategy for 2050 has its main focus the future development of the borough of Milton Keynes. But it also considers the wider area and its economy, and the way that people travel day-to-day to access work, shops, leisure and other services in different areas and towns across the wider area, across council boundaries. We think of this area as a 'Greater' Milton Keynes, including neighbouring parts of Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Central Bedfordshire. These areas each have their own unique character, independent of Milton Keynes, but many of their residents work, shop or visit MK on a daily basis and those towns and villages add to the overall attractiveness and prosperity of the wider area.

It is not our intention in the Strategy for 2050 to recommend a distribution of growth in our neighbouring areas; we know that is a job for the local plans of those individual planning authorities and that the homes that are delivered are counted towards their own housing targets. But in developing the Strategy for 2050 and the evidence base that sits behind it, we have sought to consider how growth might work best across boundaries, especially when thinking about how many of us lead

[^0]our lives and the services we use regularly, and in thinking about the natural environment or other constraints and opportunities.

## Status of the Strategy

The Strategy is a non-statutory document (i.e. it is not a formal planning policy document prepared in accordance with statutory regulations), but it does create a context and vision for the development of Milton Keynes borough over the coming decades, which future local plans and other Council and partner plans, policies and strategies should respond to and help to deliver.

The Strategy for 2050 has been prepared in the context of a suite of other local plans and strategies, which have helped to guide its ambitions.

## 2. BACKGROUND EVIDENCE

## Evidence Base

The Strategy for 2050 was prepared during 2019 and 2020, informed by a variety of evidence and data sources which are referenced within the document with hyperlinks where available. The evidence that was prepared specifically for the Strategy is available to download at www.MKFutures2050.com, including the comprehensive Strategic Growth Study and supporting studies that were prepared using a grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Following the publication of the Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 in January 2020, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK has subsequently gone into recession. This inevitably led to questions about the evidence that was prepared during 2018 and 2019 and the way that has been interpreted in the Strategy. During summer 2020 we commissioned work to review core assumptions in the Strategy and what the pandemic and resulting recession could mean for delivery. These evidence reviews looked closely at our proposed mass rapid transit system and how we can deliver our aim of mobility for all in the light of suppressed levels of commuting and use of public transport, and also the implications of the recession for jobs and housing growth. We also undertook public and stakeholder engagement to seek views on the impact of the pandemic on any aspect of the Strategy (see section 3 below).

## Differences between the Strategy and the Strategic Growth Study

While the Strategy takes forward many of the propositions made in the evidence studies, there are some cases where the Strategy takes a slightly different stance, and where that is the case, the approach in the Strategy for 2050 should take precedence as the Council's proposed direction.

## Further Evidence

It is important to note that in order to deliver the Strategy, including in how it is translated into future Local Plans, there will be further evidence prepared to test the propositions contained within it in more detail and meet the robust challenges of the Local Plan examination. Examples of this further work
include more detailed modelling and preparation of a full business case for the proposed mass transit system, and a comprehensive, long-term infrastructure assessment.

## 3. ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## Pre-publication Engagement

There has been ongoing stakeholder and public engagement which has informed the development of the Strategy for 2050, culminating in an extended engagement period in early 2020. This is in addition to the extensive programme that took place as part of the MK Futures 2050 Commission process in 2015 and 2016 which is explained in detail in a Commission Working Paper that informed their final report. ${ }^{3}$

Through 2018 and 2019, the ongoing engagement programme that informed the drafting of the Strategy for 2050 included

- regular roundtable discussions with civic and city stakeholders
- presentations and discussions with various interest groups including MK Arts and Heritage Alliance, MK Secondary Heads group, MK Business Council, voluntary and community sector, and town and parish councils.
- "Forging the Future" programme with secondary school students
- workshop sessions at MK YCAB (Youth Cabinet) and MySayMK conference
- presentation and discussion at conferences and seminars, including MK Sustainability Conference, Fred Roche Foundation talks, Groundwork Weekender, MK Business Leaders and MK Geek Night.
- Journey to 2050 four-day public exhibition in Middleton Hall, Central Milton Keynes in July 2019.


## Engagement Draft - January - May 2020

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 was published in January 2020. Initially, this was intended to be for a ten-week period, due to end on $17^{\text {th }}$ April 2020. At the start of the engagement period, we used the following engagement methods;

- document published online at www.MKFutures2050.com ${ }^{4}$
- hard copies of the Strategy held in libraries, including in neighbouring towns, and in MKC children's centres
- emails sent to known stakeholders, with encouragement to share widely across their networks
- social media used to pull out bite-size issues and themes - Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter
- a short YouTube animation shared through social media channels ${ }^{5}$

[^1]- series of public meetings in communities within MK and in neighbouring areas
- discussion sessions with stakeholder groups, e.g. civic and city groups, business community, council staff.

However, by mid-March it was obvious that our programme of public meetings would no longer be feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, and the final sessions were cancelled. The engagement period was extended to Friday $22^{\text {nd }}$ May to allow time for responding via other means, creating an engagement period of 18 weeks in total from the initial publication on $20^{\text {th }}$ January. We also added a narrated version of the presentation that had been used at our public meetings to the website, offered on line briefings, and published answers to the 'frequently asked questions' we had received from the meetings that had gone ahead. ${ }^{6}$

Through this January - May 2020 engagement period, we received around 250 emails in addition to the comments made during public meetings and via social media. The headlines from this feedback are presented in Section 5 of this statement, and a more comprehensive summary of the points raised and a brief description of how this has influenced the final Strategy is available online at www.MKFutures2050.com.

## COVID-19 Engagement - June - July 2020

Following the main engagement period, we took the decision to ask for views on the potential implications for the Strategy from the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to understand people's thoughts on the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic on the future development of Milton Keynes and any aspect of the draft Strategy we had published. To that end, a note was prepared describing emergent thinking about potential impacts, including a set of questions to help respondents frame their thoughts. ${ }^{7}$ The note was published online on $10^{\text {th }}$ June 2020 with a deadline for comments of Friday $17^{\text {th }}$ July. Emails were sent to the original mailing list plus all those who responded to the earlier engagement draft, with details shared through our social media channels.

Through this five-week engagement period, around 55 responses were received. The headline summary of these comments is included in Section 5, and a more comprehensive summary online at www.MKFutures2050.com.

## Respondents

Through both the engagement periods, we received comments from a wide range of sources. The respondents included members of the public, Town and Parish Councils, local planning authorities, local Ward Members and political parties, planning consultants, landowners and developers, council officers, city and civic stakeholder groups and other local interest groups, government agencies, voluntary and community sector organisations, and business groups.

[^2]
## 4. WIDER CONTEXT

As is inevitable in the development of a long-term strategy, there is uncertainty about the status or potential outcomes of a range of variables that could impact on its preparation and delivery. For the Strategy for 2050, these uncertainties include;

- the COVID-19 pandemic and the major changes it has made to the way we live our lives, including new travel and working patterns, increased online shopping and declining city centre footfall, and changing lifestyles and priorities
- the economic recession resulting from the pandemic, including the possible impact on the housing market or increases in unemployment and business failure
- Brexit and a new relationship with the European Union
- the government's intentions for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, including a proposed cross-corridor long-term, strategic spatial framework
- the "pausing" of the proposed A421 expressway by Highways England and timing of delivery of East-West Rail
- potential changes to the planning system following the Planning White Paper, "Planning for the future" which was published in August 2020 and is likely to have major implications for the way local plans are prepared and operate
- the creation of unitary councils in neighbouring local authority areas.

The Strategy for 2050 has been prepared with the best available knowledge at the time of drafting and is designed to provide the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

In drafting the Strategy, it has also been important to balance a range of interests and aims. For example, we need to ensure that detail is provided on a wide range of issues whilst maintaining a document length that is concise and suitably strategic. Similarly, we have tried to use language that is accessible and easily understood by a range of readers, whilst trying to convey sometimes complex issues.

## 5. HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

This summary reflects the headline points that were made. The comments are broadly grouped by topic rather than listing by respondent and repeating similar points. A more comprehensive summary of the feedback received during both the January - May 2020 and June - July 2020 engagement periods is available online at www.MKFutures2050.com.

## Feedback on the Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050

- Growth should be within the Milton Keynes boundary; lack of justification for cross-boundary development. Cross-boundary development is unlikely to be deliverable
- Approach to working with neighbouring areas is not clear, has been inadequate, does not align with Neighbourhood Plans or Local Plans or meet the Duty to Cooperate
- Support a boundary blind, strategic approach but it needs political buy-in from partners
- Any future joint working or development of proposals across boundaries needs to be done on the basis of a shared vision, developed by all partners, and with better understanding of governance structures. Not logical for each council to plan alone, but there has been insufficient agreement in developing the approach
- Level of growth is not supported or evidenced. Not credible to plan for growth at this scale. Growth to a population of 400 k is far more acceptable.
- Growth target or quality of development is not achievable without a new delivery mechanism. Support consideration of new mechanism
- Do not support a new delivery vehicle, including with powers outside MK boundary
- Strategy should be flexible
- Viability needs to be factored into development assumptions. Make it clear the Council will pursue Government funding for infrastructure
- Lack of targets or detail, including numbers of homes intended in each growth location or type of development
- Support the Strategy in principle
- Support the Strategy and laudable principles, but success will come down to implementation and ensuring there are benefits for all
- COVID-19 and recession will impact the underlying evidence and how we will live in the future
- We need to sort out some of the weaknesses and challenges. Should look after what we already have first
- Ambitions need to be reconsidered and better inter-linked. MK Futures 2050 Six Big Projects should also be included
- Climate change and sustainability aspirations are not sufficiently embedded through the Strategy or ambitious enough
- Develop a comprehensive plan for CMK that considers design, investment, (re)development opportunities, parking and mobility, and takes into account the original city centre principles
- Importance of culture not reflected in the Strategy; should be given greater emphasis throughout and in Ambitions
- Limited scope for densification in the city. Compact communities mustn't be just about maximising development space and profits; consider 'gentle density'.
- Place-making agenda should promote better design, identify and retain MK's unique nature and be sensitive to existing communities
- Recent developments have not been sensitive to existing communities or original principles
- Character of different parts of the area should be reflected, not just all classed as the city
- Support development of a variety of sites, including smaller sites in addition to larger development sites
- Focus on CMK and new areas is at expense of dealing with issues in existing communities. Other places and communities are forgotten about
- Development strategy should prioritise urban development and brownfield sites rather than greenfield and edge-blobbing
- Development on greenfield sites, areas of open countryside and in small villages would irreparably damage those places
- Focus on the local economy and providing access to good jobs as an important route out of poverty, but needs strategic view
- Education system is failing local people. Not enough focus on education outside of MK:U
- Focus on CMK as location for new jobs should be reconsidered
- Green infrastructure issues should be integrated throughout the whole strategy, and be more ambitious. Environmental gains for the city should be included just as they are for transport, skills etc, with a comprehensive landscape and green infrastructure strategy
- Avoid development on existing green spaces. New green space needs to be provided to the same quality and quantity
- Design of homes should meet minimum space standards, with outdoor space and space for home working
- Importance of providing necessary infrastructure at the right time; further work needed to understand what is needed
- Infrastructure costs may not be affordable. And existing infrastructure requires renewal
- Inadequate landscape character and capacity assessment, and water-related infrastructure evidence
- Basing growth strategy around MRT is inappropriate
- Strategy isn't ambitious enough on mobility including walking and cycling. It won't deliver mobility for all principles
- Should provide better options for walking and cycling, but redways might not be the answer in all cases
- Do not perpetuate the grid road structure without considering options
- Maintain the grid roads and dual roads where possible, but new mobility options should not be at the expense of car drivers
- Proposed MRT network needs flexibility and revised routes to reach key locations. CMKcentric/radial network not appropriate
- MRT analysis has not considered full options or is an inappropriate solution
- Further information needed on funding and governance/legislative changes needed to run MRT system
- Support the reinstatement of East West Rail with appropriate improvements, but need to understand implications for some settlements/stations
- Do not support the East West Expressway
- Premature to prepare Strategy ahead of regional decisions and further evidence
- Engagement should have been halted during COVID-19 lockdown
- Strategy preparation and engagement process has not been appropriate; a new approach is needed
- Support for development across a range of specific sites/growth locations
- Against development across a range of specific sites/growth locations
- Detailed proposals for re-wording of sections


## Feedback on the Strategic Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Challenges in the public transport sector from need for social distancing reducing capacity, lack of confidence is safety, fewer journeys being made and use of private cars
- Impact of more online shopping and how to deal with the 'last mile' of delivery journeys
- Walking and cycling increase may be minimal; requires investment in infrastructure maintenance
- Changing travel patterns will impact on demand for car parking and the way people use their cars
- Changing travel patterns and the impact on commuting levels and congestion; impact on the environment, noise and pollution
- All new homes must have gardens or accessible outside space
- New homes should include homeworking space
- Impact of increased home-working and changing need for office space, which may be put to alternative use; opportunities for CMK as a regional office location; need for flexible office/meeting spaces
- High street decline will be accelerated and alternative uses found for shops and ways of attracting people to the city centre
- Still a need for local food shops and local centres, in addition to more online retailing
- Impact on leisure, food and drink, cultural and tourism sectors
- Importance of local facilities near to people's homes that provide a range of services; growing importance of local high streets and hubs
- Opportunities to change the use of existing buildings, but potential impacts on quality of life, including impact of density of development and need to maintain city centre vitality
- Investment in the city may now be very uncertain and the delivery of the Strategy is even more uncertain
- Need for UK-wide strategic action on the economy, but also need to consider changes to local economic structures to build more resilience and focus on new priorities, including green recovery
- Should consider alternative education models, e.g. forest schools, and consider implications for MK:U project
- Investment strategy needed for CMK to address decline
- Need to maintain investment in connectivity and enabling high speed broadband
- Government approach to energy will not deliver carbon neutrality; local policy should go further
- Impact is likely to exacerbate inequality
- Importance of community spirit and local support networks. People's priorities have changed
- Public Health and Voluntary Sector need proper funding and support
- Opportunities to address housing need and affordability, including rough sleepers
- Need to consider other methods for true engagement. Solutions need to be driven by citizens and stakeholder specialists
- Benefit of open spaces for outdoor recreation in lockdown
- Need spaces in the public realm that allow people to come together
- Original principles for MK have meant the city has fared well compared to other places during the pandemic, and those principles should be maintained
- There is still a need for a long-term strategy for the future of Milton Keynes
- Premature to finalise the Strategy for 2050
- Remain opposed to the Strategy and its principles
- Impact on housing market; already unachievable targets should be revised
- Should also think about other behavioural and attitude changes as a result of other calls for change, e.g. BLM movement, as well as impact of Brexit
- Changes to the national planning system are likely to have an impact. Also need local guidance on how spaces could be adapted
- Seize opportunities created, not just try to return to normal
- Government and local authorities need to give confidence to communities; MKC could take a stronger lead.


## 6. KEY CHANGES SINCE THE ENGAGEMENT DRAFT STRATEGY

Following the feedback received during the two engagement periods and using the outputs of our work to refresh the evidence base in the light of-COVID-19, we have made several changes to the structure of the strategy, and further detailed changes throughout the document. The changes described below are not exhaustive; there are many smaller changes to the wording within the Strategy for 2050 that improve clarity or consistency, and update data or references within the document where new information is available. A comprehensive summary of comments is available online at www.MKFutures2050.com and includes further detail of the changes made to the document in response to the comments received, in addition to the more fundamental changes list below.

## Changes to the structure of the Strategy for 2050

Many people commented that there was insufficient coverage of issues relating to green infrastructure and the city's green character; sustainability and meeting the city's challenging carbon neutrality agenda; and culture and the creative industries. In order to address these weaknesses, a new chapter has been added in the final Strategy for 2050 called "A Sustainable and Green City" which provides greater detail on green and blue infrastructure and sustainability issues, and more references have been threaded through the document.

A chapter has been added called "Healthy and Creative Places" which now covers our placemaking principles and adds some further focus on cultural issues. We have also added further information within the "Our Diverse and Inclusive Economy" chapter to reference the importance of the cultural and creative sector in our local economy and quality of life. Within the "Healthy and Creative Places" chapter we have explained our placemaking approach with a greater focus on our residents' health and wellbeing, and have removed the extended list of principles. The chapter "Affordable and High-Quality Homes" is now focussed on housing affordability and quality.

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 included an Annex called the "Growth Options Assessment" which included a brief assessment of the potential growth locations that had been assessed as part of the development of the Strategy. This section has now been removed from the final Strategy as originally intended.

The Engagement Draft included a chapter that focussed on Central Milton Keynes and Central Bletchley as two priority areas of change. We received feedback that this section should be expanded
as it meant some parts of the borough were not covered by this approach. This chapter is now called "Central Milton Keynes and Our Centres" and includes discussion about other centres and the opportunities available, including as locations for sensitive intensification, for flexible working space and as nodes on a much improve mobility network.

We have also included an introductory section for each chapter that summarises our vision and approach. These sections also form an Executive Summary which is available separately from the main Strategy for 2050 document.

## Major changes to content or approach

## Cross boundary growth

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 was prepared on the basis of a metropolitan Milton Keynes area, working on a 'boundary blind' basis which recognised the opportunity for growth on a more strategic geography. It was always the intention that growth in those neighbouring authority areas would come forward through the relevant councils' own local plan processes, but through the Strategy we made a suggestion, on the basis of the Strategic Growth Study prepared in support of the work, for how that wider cross boundary growth could be distributed.

In this final Strategy for 2050 we have only included a proposition for the Milton Keynes borough area and have included a broad ambition for a population of around 410,000 people in the borough by 2050. The final Strategy does include reference to the 10,000 homes that are already in adopted or emerging plans in the areas immediately adjoining the borough boundary, and that we expect that a further c.10,000 will be built in the decades to 2050 due to ongoing demand for new homes and the likely uplift in housing targets in neighbouring areas. It does not, however, put forward a recommendation for how that might be distributed (beyond identifying main settlements which are likely to be the most sustainable locations for future development), and reiterates that this will be an issue for the respective local plan in those areas to determine. Our view is that with the growth envisaged for Milton Keynes borough alongside the planned and probable growth in those neighbouring areas, the population across that greater Milton Keynes area is still likely to reach around half a million people in the middle of this century.

## Population growth

The comments on the Engagement Draft also demonstrated that we had not made it clear that the 500,000 population target it discussed was not for Milton Keynes borough alone; many people commented that the annual delivery rates that would be required would not be viable. The change discussed above - making it clear that the borough population ambition is around 410,000 people by 2050 - is intended to help clarify this position. This population is broadly in line with the MK Futures 2050 Commission recommendation in their report "Making a Great City Greater" and would require annual housebuilding rates at a level comparable with that in Plan:MK. It is important to remember that the detail of the phasing and delivery of future housing delivery will be determined through the Local Plan process and the annual housing target may change as a result of new planning requirements (following publication of the Planning White Paper).

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Throughout the document, new wording has been added to reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession where appropriate. We believe the impact will be most significant where the pandemic has accelerated existing trends. Within the "Our Diverse and Inclusive Economy", for example, we have included discussion about the implications for the city and town centres from changing working patterns and reduced footfall, demand for employment space and the potential for companies to move out from London to regional centres like Milton Keynes. We have included a revised jobs growth target that has been determined using new evidence. Within the "Mobility for All" chapter, we have emphasised walking and cycling as the priority for most journeys and reframed our proposition for a mass rapid transit system in the light of our COVID-19 evidence refresh on mobility, to include a potential phased delivery. The importance of ready access to local neighbourhood services and facilities has always been a feature of Milton Keynes and has been reinforced during the pandemic.

## Amendments to images/plans

To reflect the changes mentioned above (in particular around cross boundary growth and phasing of the mass transit network), some changes and updates have taken place to the recommended growth strategy and mobility network plans.

## Other changes

In addition to the points raised above, in refining the Strategy for 2050 we have also included some highlights from our engagement with young people in the form of a section on "Postcards from the Future" using the output of our "Forging the Future" programme in local secondary schools.

We have made greater reference to our challenges around child poverty, the important role that placemaking can play in supporting the health of our residents and included more ambitious targets around issues like affordable homes and green space provision.

## 7. ADOPTION PROCESS

As explained above, the Strategy for 2050 has been prepared and revised using the evidence and feedback collected over the last three years. The final Strategy for 2050 reflects the best available view of the issues and is intended to form a flexible framework for the future development of Milton Keynes, as discussed in section 4.

In order to move forward to delivery of the Strategy, it is intended that it is adopted as policy, as an annex to the Council Plan, and used to inform the development and delivery of other plans, policies and strategies across the authority and where appropriate, by partners. The mechanism for adopting the Strategy will be for the Cabinet to make a recommendation to Full Council. The timetable for this process is set out below, and includes early publication of the Strategy for 2050 ahead of the usual committee papers. Following adoption, the final Strategy for 2050 will be professionally designed and published.

| Publication of Strategy for 2050 online | Friday 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ November 2020 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Cabinet report online on Council's CMIS committee papers system <br> at https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Home.aspx | Friday 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ December 2020 |
| Cabinet meeting to agree a recommendation to Full Council to <br> adopt the Strategy for 2050 | ${\text { Tuesday } 15{ }^{\text {th }} \text { December 2020 }}$Council meeting to adopt the Strategy for 2050 as an Annex to the <br> Council Plan |
| Wednesday 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ January 2021 |  |

## 15 December 2020

## Child Poverty Commission Recommendations

Name of Cabinet Member<br>Report sponsor<br>Report author

Zoe Nolan<br>Cabinet member for Children and Families

Sarah Gonsalves
Director of Policy, Insight and Communications

Jeremy Beake<br>Corporate Policy \& Equality Manager<br>Jeremy.beake@milton-keynes.gov.uk

| Exempt / confidential / not <br> for publication | No |
| :--- | :--- |
| Council Plan reference | 5.2 |
| Wards affected | All wards |

## Executive summary

This is the second report of the Child Poverty Commissioners.
Hannah Markham Chair of the Commissioners writes "The aims throughout were clear; the commission wanted to draw on what we and others have learnt since the last report and to hear from those working on the ground for their views about what best could and should be done. We heard from those directly experiencing poverty and listened to a broad range of life stories from parents and children alike."

There are three recommendations, which are developed in the report.

- Establish a Child Poverty Challenge Board in Milton Keynes
- Help child poverty work to flourish
- Work to challenge child poverty through actions and influence

The Council has a major role in delivering these recommendations. In responding to the Covid-19 Crisis, the Council made strides in setting its delivery and recovery actions to challenge child poverty. Its long-term plans through the Covid-19 Recovery Plan, Town Bid and the Futures Strategy set goals within the areas of skills, homes, and jobs.

## 1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That Hannah Markham QC and the Commissioners be thanked for their work in bringing together their final report.
1.2 That the second report of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission "Our Children Deserve Better 2" be commended to all services, partners and interested parties in Milton Keynes as a shared beginning to challenging child poverty.
1.3 That the Council will lead in the challenge to child poverty using the recommendations of the Commission be affirmed.
1.4 That the Director Policy, Insight Communications and Customer, be asked to develop a Communications Plan, as well as the details of Recommendation 1, 2 and 3 and report progress to the Cabinet in six months' time.
1.5 That working with a wide group of organisations, details of what help is offered and what projects are being delivered in Milton Keynes is available for parents online by April 2021.
1.6 That a report is published annually starting on the 21 April 2021.
2. Why is the decision needed?

### 2.1 The Commissioners write:

"These reports (Report 1 in March and now this second report) are about children, children who experience barriers to their aspirations, security and well-being. Children who, we were told, face stigma and judgement on a daily basis. They grow up watching their parents face difficult decisions and pressures. As teenagers, they look on as friends and neighbours lead very different lives with very different possibilities. These children and young people live in Milton Keynes.

Since October last year, we have listened to families and professionals, from decision makers and support workers. We have heard widespread praise for what professionals and volunteers do to support people's basic needs. However, the scale of child poverty in Milton Keynes is shocking.

We have spoken to parents, children and young people. What they told us was a story of frustrations and barriers. What they hoped for was an end to the harsh treatment and a respectful rethinking of services. What they wanted were solutions that were locally focussed, more joined-up and better communicated.

Most of all parents wanted allies who would work with them to change the narrative for their children."
2.2 From the first report, it is notable that:
a) The definition of child poverty in the figures is insufficient. We heard of households with higher incomes, who had presented as homeless and were in temporary accommodation. The children in these families experienced poverty, because of their vulnerable situation.
b) Child poverty is multi-faceted. Children are in poverty when they lack the "resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong" (Townsend 1979:31)
c) Children move in and out of poverty. In the Millennium Cohort Study, a representative sample of children from the UK born in 2001, about half (47\%) of children experienced relative poverty one or more times between the age of 9 months and 11 years, and $9 \%$ of children experienced persistent poverty.

## 3. Implications of the decision

| Financial |  | Human rights, equalities, diversity | x |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Legal |  | Policies or Council Plan | x |
| Communication | x | Procurement |  |
| Energy Efficiency |  | Workforce |  |

a) Financial implications

There are no direct costs to the recommendations of the report. Any costs proposed for the implementation of the recommendations in Annex $A$ to the report will need to be funded in the revenue budget and capital programme through the usual budget-setting processes, including the preparation of Business Cases setting out the costs, benefits, affordability, value for money, and risk implications.
b) Legal implications

At present, there are no legal implications.

## c) Other implications

The outline recommendations include changes to this implications section with the addition of child poverty.

The first report contained an Equality Impact Assessment. It is important to note that the double disadvantage posed by disability either of the child or a parent. We should also be aware that because of historical factors people from BAME backgrounds are less likely to be Council tenants and therefore be subject to the private renting inequalities.

## 4. Alternatives

4.1 The topic of child poverty attracts a lot of discussion and it is challenging to address. The work of the Commission is now complete, and the resultant change will only come if the Council leads, promotes and shapes the way it delivers for children in material need. Therefore, it is not recommended to disregard these issues.

## 5. Timetable for implementation

### 5.1 The Commission suggests that:

a) A communications plan is developed that widely promotes these reports with the key date of 21 April 2021 to launch " 21 for 2021: ways to challenge child poverty.
b) That the Council's response to all recommendations is prepared by April 2021.

## List of annexes

Annex A - Recommendations
Annex B - "Our Children Deserve Better 2: The final report of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission"

## ANNEX A

## Annex A: Recommendations

1. Establish a Child Poverty Challenge Partnership in Milton Keynes. An empowered group that includes local parents and young people that can inspire and direct the reduction in child poverty, build a commitment amongst all businesses, groups and services, and provide better information about the available projects and services.
2. Make Children and young people's work flourish:

- With more new projects,
- changing the focus of existing services,
- developing existing initiatives in imaginative ways that, and
- using our 21 ideas for 2021 as inspiration.

This will require a new funding trust.
3. Organisations like the Council, change the way they work for children and families, using their influence, challenging child poverty and eliminating barriers. No organisation or service can do this work alone.

This recommendation includes
3.1 Support, Benefits, Prevention
3.1.1 Lobby national government - forming a broad consensus- to reduce the waiting time for universal credit from 5 weeks to 2 weeks, to ensure that changes in employment do not lead to persistent child poverty.
3.1.2 Extend the MK Foodbank partnership to continue providing food to vulnerable people including children in poverty and those in financial difficulty.
3.1.3 Focus the work of prevention (such as the Council's social fund and activities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989) to build family resilience based on the principle that "providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later".
3.2 Childcare, Homelessness, Children Centres
3.2.1 Develop a 'Childcare plus' project to deliver a childcare deposit scheme, increased affordable places and a greater contribution from partners such as schools and providers.
3.2.2 Develop an Accommodation plus project, finding ways to prevent homelessness by sustaining people in their own homes by partnering with housing providers and voluntary organisations.
3.2.3 Develop a 'Children Centres plus' project forming new partnerships and seeking outside funds to use the children centres to their best potential as centres of delivery in local areas

### 3.3 Abuse, Rent, Health

3.3.1 Reduce domestic abuse related crimes every year for the next five years as a proportion of all crimes as well the number of incidents, using 2019 figures as a benchmark
3.3.2 Reduce the gap between the Local Housing Allowance and the bottom quartile mark of local private market rents to zero
3.3.3 Improve accessibility to mental health services for parents by stipulating adjustments for childcare responsibilities within contracts
3.3.4 All eligible children receive school holiday meals for every holiday periods and increase their available to more children
3.4 Learning, Regeneration \& Transport, Employment
3.4.1 Addressing the issues of affordable transport through new responsive schemes
3.4.2 sing the leverage to promote sustainable jobs and the living wage
3.4.3 Develop more domestic finance information and help
3.4.4 Deliver the council's regeneration ambitions
3.4.5 An educational electronic device in the hands of every child, a commitment from schools, services and local voluntary groups to ensure every pupil over 12 has access to a Chromebook or higher

### 3.5 Shaping Services

3.5.1 All managers and services shape their work to reduce child poverty, so that the priority of child poverty reduction and alleviation is 'breathed throughout the council
3.5.2 Publish a report for Milton Keynes every year regarding progress
3.5.3 All managers and services shape their work to reduce child poverty, so that the priority of child poverty reduction and alleviation is 'breathed throughout the council and public services"
3.5.4 Publish a report for Milton Keynes every year regarding progress

## ANNEX B

## Our children deserve better ...

## The final report of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission, March 2020



MK
milton keynes council

## The Commissioners were:

Hannah Markham QC, Commission Chair<br>Cllr Jane Carr<br>Cllr Zoe Nolan<br>Cllr David Hopkins<br>Rev. Paul Oxley<br>Paul Sedgwick<br>Maureen Lloyd<br>Laura Osgathorp<br>Anita O' Malley<br>Tina Price<br>Jeremy Beake, Lead Officer to the Commission<br>Sarah Gonsalves, Corporate Leadership

We thank each and every one of those who gave their time to share information and provide evidence to the commission. To those who provided more intimate first-hand experiences of living in poverty, the commission extends their sincere thanks.

## Our three challenges to child Poverty

"We want people to help us change things for our children, this means the Council and everyone else..." from a Parent from Coffee Hall

We are the Child Poverty Commission, made up of local people from Milton Keynes. We have been investigating child poverty. We reported, firstly in March 2020, that local levels were rising. Now, in this second report, we highlight what we need to do to challenge child poverty and support families.

## Summary of our challenges for Milton Keynes

## Parents asked for allies. They wanted 'more than words', a greater

 commitment and a voice in the decision-making process.This requires a Child Poverty Challenge Board in Milton Keynes is established - an empowered group that includes local parents and young people, who can inspire and direct a reduction in the levels of child poverty.

Volunteers and project workers talked about the need for more initiatives, better resources and improved collaboration. They told us that from food projects to housing help, the quickest support comes from local groups.

## This requires that children and young people's work flourishes:

- With more new projects,
- changing the focus of existing services,
- developing existing initiatives in imaginative ways that, and
- using our 21 ideas for 2021 as inspiration.

This will require a new funding trust.

Local service managers reported how difficult reducing child poverty will be - structural change is necessary, building on what is already being done to meet the challenge with new collaborations that recognise the shared use of resources, the need for resilience and dynamic new partnerships.

This requires that organisations like the Council, change the way they work for children and families, using their influence, challenging child poverty and eliminating barriers. No organisation or service can do this work alone.

## Child Poverty in MK



22,940
children in poverty after housing costs
affording childcare
people said was their major concern


3730
domestic abuse related crimes (2019), $16 \%$ of all crimes


## 24,000

working age people without an NVQ 1 and above qualification


5 weeks
wait for Universal Credit payments


970
children in temporary accommodation

Nov 2020

£220
average difference per month between HRA and local private rents


## 18\%

of MK in the bottom decile for housing deprivation in England


1,600 households helped through the Troubled Families Programme

£4.80
the cost of a return bus journey from central MK


## 7,251

 pupils known to be eligible for free school meals

11,055
(up 320\% in a year)
September benefit
claimants

## A. Child Poverty in Milton Keynes

It is difficult to grasp the scale of Child poverty in Milton Keynes over 22,000 children are in poverty after housing cost are taken into account, which is still 10,900 children based only on income levels, 7000 qualify for free school meals (and are at risk of hunger) and 970 are in temporary accommodation. Some of these children face double disadvantage - they they have parents with poor mental
 health, have a disability or long-term limiting illness.

The numbers of children in poverty has continued to rise, mirroring what is happening nationally, but with two unique local features:

- in all parts of Milton Keynes, meeting housing costs is more of a struggle than it is in many other places outside of London, and
- most of these households have at least one adult working - which was particularly true before the Covid Crisis

In the months since our first report, the Covid Crisis has intensified child poverty in Milton Keynes, most notably benefits claimants have increased from 3,000 to over 11,000. We also know that this includes over 2000 '18-24-year olds' (390 in March) that have over 600 dependent children between them.

## B. Children and young people are the focus

This report is addressed to the people and organisations in Milton Keynes. We must challenge child poverty together. This work is about children, children who experience barriers to their aspirations, security and well-being. However, it is often hard to help them directly, instead we must work to change their environment.

The building blocks of a good childhood haven't changed - secure relationships, a stable home and inspiring schools. Parents told us that they need help to provide these basic needs, by dismantling the barriers they face. This will mean a new commitment from businesses, community groups, families and public services across Milton Keynes to work together to challenge child poverty.

Recommendation 1. Establish a Child Poverty Challenge Partnership in Milton Keynes. An empowered group that includes local parents and young people that can inspire and direct the reduction in child poverty, build a commitment amongst all businesses, groups and services, and provide better information about the available projects and services.

## C. Increasing support now

What struck people who read our first report was the scale of lost opportunities and the fragmented nature of the response. From food projects to housing help, we heard how people work tirelessly, but our approach needs a higher gear. We don't want this report to gather dust!

Councils cannot do everything. Challenging child poverty will need a myriad of small initiatives and the development of some existing ones. We need to think in a new way. To help inspire this, we present 21 ideas for 2021 - they are not exhaustive nor perfect, but things different groups can be done now. We must:

1. Rethink what we are already do; changing the purpose or aim so that we can focus on child poverty and build resilience.
2. Increase in-kind support and direct funding for small projects. This vision needs a new funding process.
3. Start with 'shovel-ready ideas', changing the way we work to have the greatest potential impact on the persistence of child poverty.

Recommendation 2. This requires that children and young people's work flourishes:

- With more new projects,
- changing the focus of existing services,
- developing existing initiatives in imaginative ways that, and
- using our 21 ideas for 2021 as inspiration.

This will require a new funding trust.


## D. Changing the narrative

Parents are frustrated that the story of child poverty seems to repeat itself. They spoke about the wonderful services, but also the way how some services placed barriers or larger burdens or even costs on families. This is not just local public services, but local businesses and national government too. One of the ways the narrative will change is if authorities commit to challenging these barriers and burdens.

Recommendation 3. This requires that organisations like the Council, change the way they work for children and families, using their influence, challenging child poverty and eliminating barriers. No organisation or service can do this work alone.

## E. What can we do now?

## Challenging Child Poverty: 21 ideas for 2021

1. Publish a list of projects and services that challenge child poverty this will include how to access them and how someone can be referred
2. Help people to know "what is out there" through better promotion using official channels and social media
3. Encourage people to support a local initiative by increasing in-kind and voluntary support to local projects and services and using the list of projects and services
4. Better service information to help parents considering the high percentage of parents in Milton Keynes not born in the UK and the needs for simple explanations
5. Reuse 'pre-loved' clothes and school uniforms, refocusing existing schemes to concentrate on supporting the costs of clothing local children
6. Stop the stigma of poverty by including this into our definitions of bullying and abuse in our communities, schools and settings
7. Use local centres and facilities better for in-kind donations of pre-loved items for the 0-5 age group as well as other items, such as clothing, for all age groups
8. More storage space for child poverty initiatives by releasing public owned capacity to projects who are limited by storage space
9. Launch a Child Poverty Trust through the Community Foundation in partnership with local agencies provide grants for small projects to tackle issues within their communities
10. Ensure no child is hungry, supporting to meet basic food needs, including a commitment to providing food in school holidays to those on Free School Meals and those deemed in need


## Challenging Child Poverty: 21 ideas for 2021

11. Employability programmes for lone parents, bringing together expertise from existing employability projects, focusing on those looking for support
12. Encourage local employers to pay the Living Wage based on the true cost of living, increasing the number of employers in Milton Keynes who are accredited living wage employers (presently 126)
13. Deliver a holiday activities and food programme to the most vulnerable children
14. Ensure all children have the digital education tools they need to aid and improve their learning building upon the government schemes
15. Widen eligibility of support services to families with children with a disability such as laundry services
16. Use a credit union. These are for everyone but need more investors to provide an alternative to payday loans or illegal money lending.
17. Launch a deposit scheme for childcare like the one provided for housing
18. Change how some services operate, routinely considering barriers such as childcare for example in mental health or other services
19. Give parents a better voice by asking about the barriers they face in accessing and using services
20. Help parents access Mental Health services by adjusting to dismantle barriers, such as childcare and needs of dependents
21. Better 'joined up' referrals collaboration between services, projects and voluntary groups to refer families directly and speedily to support

## F. Necessary structural changes

outlined in our first report

## Children \& Family Wellbeing



Improved
support


Access to affordable childcare


Domestic abuse reduction


A learning culture built

Financial
Wellbeing


Improved
benefit efficiency


More homelessness advice \& prevention


Allowances and rent market match


Better regeneration \& transport options

Community
Wellbeing


Targeted preventative services


Health outcomes improvement


Employment practices \& skills improved

Due regard to child poverty in all key decisions Annual report

## G. Service Recommendations

## 1. 랄 ( ) Support, Benefits, Prevention

"Wait 5 weeks for Universal Credit, why so long? Then you need a loan to survive. But when the payment comes through you have to pay back the loan so after bills and rent ... we don't have enough money for food and school clothes. But I make sure the kids eat."

Parent quoted in our first report

## Support

- Milton Keynes entered the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related economic shock from a starting position of growing child poverty and low levels of financial resilience. 65\% of families in the bottom income quintile had either no savings or savings below $£ 1,500$.
- The pattern of employment loss and furloughing by income suggests that the future economic consequences of COVID-19 may be borne by those on lower incomes. This in turn heightens the risks of persistent poverty without ongoing support.
- The Council's response through Foodbank Extra provided key insights into how the Council can support the third sector to meet the challenges of support.


## Benefits

- Universal Credit provides people in work and on a low income or out of work with a benefit. Providing benefits to bolster people's incomes for as long as necessary should remain a priority. But there is a flaw in the government's current approach to Universal Credit that risks undermining people's resilience to poverty. The wait for Universal Credit puts at risk people's ability to cope, reassurance for renters and quick recovery for people who have lost their jobs.


## Prevention

- Preventing child poverty should no longer be regarded as a side programme of the Council, but as an essential instrument to transform the lives of local children. Evidence shows that funds that help build resilience in the face of a crisis are more likely to create opportunities.
- Bringing the Council's various responses to prevention through the Social Fund and statutory funding together and refocusing this work on building resilience and investing more in this service, would strengthen families to tackle the issues they face.

1. Support, Benefits, Prevention

| What is needed? | Over the last two decades various governments have repeatedly stated that work is the best route out of poverty. This implies that work is not the only route but is the preferred or main route in tackling child poverty. <br> However, as we have noted, pre-Covid most children in poverty in Milton Keynes were in working families. A dual process therefore required; sustainable income sources must be accompanied by a strategy to help families be more resilient. |
| :---: | :---: |
| What services are doing? | The Council supported projects and people directly throughout the Covid crisis. Supporting over 1000 households a week throughout the crisis. <br> The Covid-19 Strategic Recovery Framework outlines how Milton Keynes and its people can successfully recover from the impact of COVID-19, including retaining high levels of employment and reducing unemployment, and providing practical help and support to those in need |
| Recommendation <br> 3.1 <br> What more could the Council and its partners do? | - Lobby national government - forming a broad consensus- to reduce the waiting time for universal credit from 5 weeks to 2 weeks, to ensure that changes in employment do not lead to persistent child poverty <br> - Extend the MK Foodbank partnership to continue providing food to vulnerable people including children in poverty and those in financial difficulty <br> - Focus the work of prevention (such as the Council's social fund and activities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989) to build family resilience based on the principle that "providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later". |

"Being in temporary accommodation feels like having your life on hold. The worst thing for us was the moving around. We were moved from Milton Keynes because of the housing situation to Watford, then Luton, Rugby and then Northampton and finally to Coffee Hall."

Parent quoted in our first report

## Childcare

- High quality early education and early help services directly tackle the effects of poverty on children and families by supporting children's development and improving educational outcomes. Also, flexible, affordable childcare provision is central to supporting parents to improve their income or accessing education and training.
- Families at risk of poverty, especially those in private rented accommodation are particularly poorly served by the childcare system. Flexible childcare is scarcer and more costly in some areas, early help services have been hit from their highs a decade ago, and a complex system of childcare subsidies and deposit requirements lead to opportunities being lost.


## Homelessness

- Whilst living in temporary accommodation may not be the dystopian nightmare of popular thought, it is expensive both for the local authority and the family, and a risk factor for poverty and poor outcomes.
- Changes in approach at the Council have been successful in identifying warning signs and intervening to support people in their own homes.


## Children Centres

- Poverty is not just a function of income, but families can be trapped in an emotional whirlpool - not able to be resilient and/or start employment.
- The use of Children Centres as a focus for local services for children a decade ago made a big difference to outcomes. Rebuilding this through partner agreements and/or by leveraging outside funds for projects based out of children centres would address the causes and consequences of child poverty in a more holistic manner, building resilience and addressing basic needs. Childcare, Homelessness, Children Centres
$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|}\hline \text { What is } \\ \text { needed? } & \begin{array}{l}\text { The work of childcare, homelessness prevention and Children Centres } \\ \text { in Milton Keynes has increased and improved in the last ten years } \\ \text { both in quality and quantity. However, each suffers from a common } \\ \text { challenge of delivering for all families in a sustainable way. }\end{array} \\ \text { Children in poverty are more likely to have two parent working } \\ \text { families and be in any wards in Milton Keynes. Existing policies do not } \\ \text { always consider these factors and therefore the negative effect of } \\ \text { homelessness, lack of childcare and access to local services can be } \\ \text { greater. }\end{array}\right\}$



## Abuse, Rent, Health

"We didn't have any food at home, and I had not had any breakfast today. I was really hungry" Girl quoted in our first report

## Abuse

- There is a complex and often reciprocal relationship between poverty and domestic abuse. With poverty not only the consequence of abuse, but pressures on families due to poverty often exasperates and intensifies such incidents.
- Domestic abuse has increased significantly in Milton Keynes since 2016. Research shows that a variety of factors may contribute to the poverty of women and children who have experienced domestic violence, including lack of affordable housing and barriers to employment.
- Throughout the March to May lockdown the instances of both children and domestic abuse were reported to be down, but after initial lockdown ended there was sharp increase.


## Rent

- The Local Housing Allowance rate only just covers the cost of the lowest market rent for a four bedroomed house in Milton Keynes around $£ 1200$ per month. This has increased by nearly $£ 200$ in the last two years.
- The Council is both a large influence within the local housing rental market and shares the burden of the differences between local housing allowance and market rents. Changes in approach at the Council have been successful in identifying warning signs and promoting interventions to support people in their own homes.


## Health

- Poor diet can be responsible for poor health and costs health services nationally an estimated $£ 6$ billion a year even before Covid-19. The post-lockdown recession will see many more families struggle to feed themselves adequately.
- The School Food Plan for government in 2013, proposed three "quick and relatively straightforward steps" to take to tackle the nutritional crisis facing the poorest children. This included an expansion of free school meals to working families and into school holidays. However, little action had occurred until the recent outcry.


## Abuse, Rent, Health

$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|}\hline \text { What is } \\ \text { needed? }\end{array} \begin{array}{l}\text { Barriers to reducing child poverty are linked to basic human needs of } \\ \text { safety, shelter and sustenance. In Milton Keynes we need to address: } \\ \text { - The rising instances of domestic abuse } \\ \text { - The gap in affordability of private rents, which are on and } \\ \text { above the local housing allowance } \\ \text { - Any child who does not have a proper sustenance, especially } \\ \text { in school holidays }\end{array}\right\}$
4.

"Getting somewhere is the biggest issue, wouldn't it be great if things were local..."

Parent quoted in our first report

## Learning

- We understood the need for family education includes: the need to narrow the gap between those children who experience poverty and their wider cohort and ensuring that parents have the basic skills to be able to take the opportunities of employment.
- However, the most pressing need is to build literacy in managing the resources they have. We heard of families in crisis, unable to manage and the work of centres and credit unions coaching people with personal finance basics. In order to have financial security and independence, knowledge of managing savings and spending is essential.


## Regeneration \& Transport

- Milton Keynes Council has had big ambitions for child poverty no more so that in its 2015 Regeneration Strategy which said: "We will tackle the root causes of poverty by improving access to employment and increasing income levels." However, this ambition has not yet been delivered.
- Local people told us that promoting neighbourhood economies in which local shops, services and facilities are developed is fundamental to any action on poverty.
- Transport remains an issue in Milton Keynes, one which does not have any easy answers without large scale investment. Simply put the transport links between some communities and opportunities are poor and the cost of having to come to the centre is not affordable.


## Employment

- In our first report we spoke of structural change, building resilience and addressing basic needs. In no place is this needed more than in the area of employment. Post Covid more than ever there will be the need to assist people with training and reskilling, with a focus on groups, like women and young parents, that find themselves at the most disadvantage.
- Sustainable employment must be more than just green companies, but the concept should include building resilient jobs with robust contracts and living wage pay levels.
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{|l|l|}\hline \text { What is } \\
\text { needed? } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Parents who can address their financial challenge and provide } \\
\text { aspiration, support and stimulation to their children. }\end{array}
$$ <br>
Neighbourhoods and communities that offer a high level of social and <br>
cultural benefits that alleviate the material aspects of poverty and <br>
provide improved opportunities. <br>
Residents of Milton Keynes who meet their potential, with developed <br>
skills or can access well paid employment through responsive <br>
sustainable transport. Businesses and employers that provide <br>

sustainable jobs that pay a living wage.\end{array}\right\}\)| - Working together to help deliver major long-term projects to |
| :--- |
| create skills for the future MK economy, including a practical |
| support scheme to help women and young people train or re-skill |
| and find work |

## Shaping

- The current situation as we emerge from Covid in Milton Keynes shows a challenging picture. Recessions often falls disproportionately on the poorest and most vulnerable in society. There are none more vulnerable than children in material need.
- All services must use all the tools at their disposal leveraging, promoting and lobbying as well as taking action. It is the hope of the commission that a broad political consensus can be built when approaching national government.
- Everybody should consider what they can do immediately, what is medium term and what are longer term strategies.

| What is |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| needed? | A council shaped towards children in material need. This means <br> building on good practice of assessment and priorities and going <br> further. Services will need to refocus to address child poverty more <br> directly in their mainstream services. |
| What services <br> are doing? | In setting up the Commission, the Council showed itself willing to <br> change. Through the Covid crisis all organisations worked to meet <br> local need and through the recovery plans we have learnt how we <br> can reduce child poverty. The Council has also begun to have due <br> regard to child poverty in all its functions and in all key decisions. This <br> will ensure that small changes will alleviate issues that can widen <br> without action. |
| Recommendation | To be more effective all services in statutory services must: <br> - All managers and services shape their work to reduce child <br> poverty, so that the priority of child poverty reduction and <br> alleviation is 'breathed throughout the council" |
| What more <br> Could the <br> Council and <br> its partners <br> do? | Publish a report for Milton Keynes every year regarding progress |

# Last Word from Hannah Markham Q.C. 

## Chair of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission

The task for the commission and indeed for the Council is a daunting one. Child Poverty across the Country has been increasing and the situation for one in every second child in Milton Keynes has become dire. The commissioners who came
 together brought a diverse and eclectic range of experiences, opinions and viewpoints, all focused at taking effective and progressive steps towards assisting the Council, business and people of Milton Keynes to come together to work to reduce Child Poverty.

The aims throughout were clear; the commission wanted to draw on what we and others have learnt since the last report and to hear from those working on the ground for their views about what best could and should be done. We heard from those directly experiencing poverty and listened to a broad range of life stories from parents and children alike. Wonderful stories of entrepreneurship shone through as did the remarkable work being undertaken at the Children's Centres throughout the Council and by the food banks and fridges. People who work 'at the coal face' assisting with benefit enquiries and help in housing, shared their views, frustrations and hopes. Taking this evidence enabled a remarkable insight into what works and what might work, looking always to the future and learning from the past.

The advent of Covid-19 served only to highlight and focus the precarious nature of the lives we live and how often so many of us could find ourselves in need of assistance. It also demonstrated how quickly partnerships could be created and new initiatives pursued. In particular, the Community Foundation is bringing to the fore some vital thinking across communities and sectors, including charity work and business links. There is however still much to be done. The businesses, residents and charities of Milton Keynes need to continue to work hard to create opportunities and to provide support. The Council has pledged their support to break the cycle and to challenge child poverty. The aims are set out in the report.

The reality is that green shoots of hope are there, tangible changes are within reach and it is the hope and aspiration of all who have worked on this report that a real change can be brought about through the aims set out in the report so that by the time of the next review it will no longer be one in every second child who lives in Poverty in Milton Keynes. Our 21 ideas for 2021 encapsulate those shoots of hope and build on the creativity, innovative thinking and resilience already in place to turn the tide and bring about a real and tangible change.

## Corporate Policy \& Equality

Milton Keynes Council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ
Email: equalities@milton-keynes.gov.uk

## Cabinet report

## 15 December 2020

## Sustainability Action Plan

Name of Cabinet Member

Councillor Jennifer Wilson-Marklew

Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability

Report sponsor

Report author

## Stuart Proffitt

Director Environment and Property
Neil Allen

Head of Regulatory Services
Neil.allen@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908252365
Exempt / confidential / not No for publication
Council Plan reference
Wards affected

## Section 8 - para 8.1 and 8.3

All wards

## Executive summary

The Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050 sets out our long-term vision to create a world-leading sustainable city which embraces innovation, creates high quality jobs and recognises it has a vital role in tackling the global challenges of climate change. In March 2020 Cabinet approved a first draft Sustainability Action Plan, as well as the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change Task and Finish Group. Cabinet requested that the two sets of actions be drawn together into a combined action plan to ensure an integrated approach.

This update for Cabinet was initially planned for September 2020, but due to COVID19 priorities was postponed to December 2020. Along with creating a consolidated action list a number of key elements of the plan have been moved forward since March, notably developing a local carbon baseline (for MKC) as the first stage in developing measures to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 and an Energy Prospectus.

The revised Sustainability Strategy Action Plan (Annex A) details the combined set of actions which are identified as short, medium and long term actions. Once the overall plan is approved each will be further developed to understand their full cost and the energy and carbon reduction that can be achieved and then prioritised. Some actions will run concurrently whilst others may not take shape immediately as new technologies and innovations will need to be fully understood and proven in the first instance.

An early consolidation activity has been to produce the Milton Keynes Energy Prospectus (Annex B) and a pathway to zero carbon (Annex C). The Prospectus is also an open invitation to all that Milton Keynes is open for net zero development and investment. It also supports policy objectives in Plan:MK and delivery of the Strategy for 2050 and is an important element in the ambition for MK to become a world leading green city. It outlines how a proposed Energy and Carbon Hub can provide the skills and capacity to deliver the opportunities and projects highlighted in the Prospectus and Action Plan, not only to deliver carbon neutrality against our own activities but also to support wider initiatives and measures for carbon neutrality across the borough. The Prospectus will evolve year on year, as planned measures are delivered and new measures are considered, perhaps because of availability of new funding routes or accelerated advances in technology.

Based on our revised baseline ( 24,000 metric tonnes of CO2e), the 'pathway to zero' shows our progress on emission reductions to date and the impact that the planned interventions are forecast to make. It also describes further proposals that have the potential to cover the remaining gap to reach net zero.

Compared to many other local authorities, we are in a relatively good place having identified interventions which are both realistic and achievable, and most of which are already progressing, so take us much of the way to carbon neutrality. It does also show us that we must push very hard over the next 2 to 4 years to identify and begin to implement measures to deliver a demonstrable carbon zero position, and ensure that our pathway follows the exponential trajectory (Annex C) as closely as possible. It will not be easy, as there are areas where our direct control and/or influence can be reduced or require a different approach, but this Action Plan and Prospectus provide a strong basis for our work.

Through the Re:Fit programme of work, success has been achieved in attracting funding from phase one of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) towards two projects in the HRA. This highlights the importance to continue the development of 'shovel ready' projects to ensure the Council is in the optimum position to make future bids against new Government funding

Officers are proposing a yearly update to all Ward Councillors to update on progress, monitor the delivery of benefits and gain support for specific measures, including locally specific activity. The reports will also provide an opportunity to highlight future plans and approaches to securing the collective behavioural change needed across the borough.

## 1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That this update be noted and the action plan (Annex A) be approved as the starting point for an ambitious implementation programme.
1.2 That the progress against the action plan be reported annually to all Ward Councillors.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 Milton Keynes Council declared a climate change emergency and adopted the Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050 in January 2019.
2.2 Having declared the emergency, we should demonstrate the council's civic and climate leadership by becoming carbon neutral and showing residents, organisations and businesses of the borough how they too can work towards carbon neutrality.
2.3 The benefits of achieving carbon neutrality are many, including generating renewable energy thereby providing resilience to the nationwide grid; reducing the levels of carbon emissions and therefore improving the air quality and creating circular economies across the borough, which increase the efficient use of resources to reuse materials, use less water and ensure the best use is made of the land.
2.4 The Climate Change Task and Finish Group recommendations covered a wide range of actions to be considered, developed and implemented to contribute to achieving the overall carbon reduction target. They have been integrated into the consolidated Action Plan (Annex A).
3. Implications of the decision

| Financial | Y | Human rights, equalities, diversity | N |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Legal | Y | Policies or Council Plan | Y |
| Communication | Y | Procurement | Y |
| Energy Efficiency | Y | Workforce | Y |

a) Financial implications

There are financial implications in delivering this action plan for revenue income and expenditure and for capital expenditure, but these cannot be assessed at this stage. Each of the proposed actions will require its own business plan and be considered as part of the capital programme (where appropriate) or be assessed as part of the existing revenue budget process. A sum of $£ 250 \mathrm{k}$ has been provided to pump prime the overall programme as shown in Annex W of the proposed budget for 2020/21, which will be available for 2021/22. The goal of the energy and carbon hub is to be self-sustaining in 2023/24.

## b) Legal implications

The Council has general powers of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything which an individual can do subject to any limitations. The recommendations proposed within the report, if approved, will facilitate the Council's vision to create a world-leading sustainable city.

## c) Council Plan

Action on climate change and sustainability is one of the key commitments; number 8, of the current Council Plan 2016-2022 and the delivery of the action plan and the case for an energy company are two of the specific elements.

## d) Other implications

As the action plan will touch all citizens in some way a communications plan will be required to engage; advise and inform; and to introduce changes to the citizens at key points in a number of the actions.

Energy efficiency is a key part of becoming carbon neutral so improvements to the insulation of a building, behavioural change in the use of resources and reuse and recycling all need to be addressed.

Procurement of partners, contracts and services will need to be undertaken progression is made to achieve carbon neutrality.

## 4. Timetable for implementation

4.1 Once approved by Cabinet the work to deliver the actions will continue. Actions have been split into short, medium and long term but how to prioritise actions within each timescale will be subject to funding, ability to deliver and technological advances.

## List of annexes

Annex A - Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2019-2050
Annex B - Milton Keynes Energy Prospectus
Annex C - Pathway to Zero

## List of background papers

Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050
Cabinet Report 10 March 2020
Task and Finish Group Report - Cabinet 10 March 2020
Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Baseline \& Target Setting | Trees | Implement Environment Action Plan with Clean Air enhancements (i.e. tree planting) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Low emissions | Clean Air | Hard deliverable | In house | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Waste | Travel | Implement low emission fleet for Authority fleet(s) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Clean Air | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Assessment, market consideration and business cases for all MKC vehicles to migrate to lower carbon, clean fuel provision to reduce carbon impact and improve air quality across the entire borough. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Clean Air | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Baseline \& Target Setting | Healthy lifestyle | Continue to robustly monitor emissions and air quality to maintain and improve the current levels | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Clean Air | Strategic change | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Travel | Complete review of low emission waste, cleansing, landscaping and highways fleet and circular economy fuelling options | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Strategic change | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Implement alternative strategies to reduce car use and promote bus, cycling and other more efficient / sustainable modes of transport | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Strategic change | Influence | Borough wide |

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN
Annex A

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Council } \\ & \text { operations } \\ & \text { or Borough } \\ & \text { wide } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Implement policies and schemes that encourage ride sharing and reduced single occupancy car use | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Low } \\ & \text { emissions } \end{aligned}$ | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Communication, Engagement \& Education |  | Support the establishment of the third sector in working to repair and resell items which have gone through "planned obsolescence" curve | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Strategic change | influence | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Communication, Engagement \& Education | Education | Expand the Eco-Warrier education programme to focus on material reuse and waste reduction, as well as expand the programme to Secondary Schools | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Waste | Consider options for bulking up carbon intensive materials for reprocessing (bottom ash into aggregates, mattresses to be recycled etc) via a Transfer Station | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Strategic change | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Waste | Investigate potential for open windrow composition facility to process borough garden waste and create community compost | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Strategic change | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Recycling | Reduce contamination rate in recycling through proactive community engagement | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | Influence | Borough wide |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Council } \\ & \text { operations } \\ & \text { or Borough } \\ & \text { wide } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Energy Efficiencies | Energy | Provide energy transition advice to individuals, organisations and businesses | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | Influence | Council operation |
| SSAP | Staff \& Councillors | Policy | A consistent theme through all MKC policies and procedures to ensure alignment and which include requirements to indicate contribution to lowering emissions | $\begin{gathered} \text { Short term } \\ 2020- \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Procurement | Contracts | Ensure all contracts require low carbon suppliers and deliveries to the buildings | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy efficiencies | Energy | Retrofit all MKC housing to improve energy efficiency | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Long term } \\ & 2028 \text { - } \\ & 2030 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Promote use of decentralised balanced smart energy systems | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Communication Engagement \& education | Catering | Develop a sustainable food procurement policy for all council premises including schools, nurseries, care homes | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | Influence | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Biodiversity | Buildings | Consideration of green roofs on commercial scale and across Council owned buildings | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Use land to capture and store carbon | Strategic change | influence | Borough wide |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Biodiversity | Biodiversity | Afforestation of available land, linked to the biodiversity baselining and with partners, such as the Parks Trust | Short term $\begin{gathered} 2020 \text { - } \\ 2022 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Use land to capture and store carbon | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Efficiencies | Energy | Install PV on council owned assets - Refit | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | High levels of green energy production | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Planning Policy | Buildings | Require all new developments to have green energy generation included as part of the building - Plan:MK and SC1/SC2 SPD development | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020 \text { - } \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Green energy | High levels of green energy production | Strategic change | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Baseline \& Target Setting | Energy | Mobilise an energy and carbon hub to facilitate and accelerate energy generation and carbon reduction opportunities | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Travel | Deliver a low emissions fleet for category 1 (waste, cleaning, landscaping community transport, highways fleets etc) with options for fuelling lower emissions fleets to be considered for wider offer to domestic logistics industry. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Communication, Engagement \& Education | Travel | Explore how freight transport can reduce its carbon footprint, such as with freight consolidation, cargo bikes etc. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Strategic change | influence | Council operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Create new car parking policy to take account of changes in customer use; new technology and future trends | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Facilitate the adoption of new forms of emobility (e-bikes, e-scooters) that could maximise use of the redways, such as with public charging points, secure storage/parking. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | influence | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Travel | Reduce carbon emissions from public transport vehicles through modernisation and electrification of the fleet | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Transport | Travel | Implement the Mobility Strategy and deliver the behaviour change aims, by encouraging an increase in the proportion of trips made by non-car modes of travel | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | influence | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Recycling | Create a dedicated "reuse" facility at one of the current or future Household Waste Recycling Centres | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Recycling | Improve quality of recycling in terms of materials | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | influence | Council operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Waste | Recycling | Source local (UK) markets for recylcing where possible and use proximity principle for offtaker destination where viable | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Efficiency | Buildings | Implement a zero-carbon building programme for all MKC buildings and schools | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | In house | Council Operation |
| SSAP | Communication, Engagement \& Education | Education | Green job creation and skills training, engaging with our partners in the business and education community | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | In house | Council Operation |
| SSAP | Waste | Waste | Investigation of creation of open windrow composting facility to create compost from collected garden waste | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Use land to capture and store carbon | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Biodiversity | Biodiversity | Maintain grassed areas to retain carbon in the soil | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Circular economy | Use land to capture and store carbon | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Identify sites and develop solar farms - Refit \& energy and carbon hub | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | High levels of green energy production | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Consider options for energy use / production at the new Recycling Centre (Materials Recycling Facility) in Old Wolverton | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | In house | Council Operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Establish options for grid upgrade, battery storage and private wire at Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park (KMWRP) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | In house | Council operation |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Create new and expand existing District Heating Networks via the energy and carbon hub | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | In house | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Implement electricity storage options including batteries, Ev's via the energy and carbon hub | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | In house | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Energy Supply | Energy | Establish schemes for residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption during peak demand | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medium } \\ \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ 2027 \end{gathered}$ | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | In house | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Waste | Recycling | Increase rate of recycling to 70\% by 2030 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Long term } \\ & 2028- \\ & 2030 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| SSAP | Waste | Waste | Reduce landfill to near zero by 2030 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Long term } \\ & 2028 \text { - } \\ & 2030 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Baseline \& target setting | Education | Initial piece of academic work to be commissioned by the Council should provide the authority with an updated Milton Keynes Greenhouse Gas Inventory, using the World Resources Institute's Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GPC) -https://www.wri.org/publication/global-protocol-community-scale-greenhouse-gasemissioninventories. | Current | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Baseline \& target setting | Education | To better understand the possible pathways towards achieving carbon neutrality, Milton Keynes Council should commission additional work to analyse what a carbon neutral future for Milton Keynes could look like and what the Council will need to do in order to reach that future. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Baseline \& target setting | Education | Commission a local university to provide an initial evidence base to help it ensure that the Council's response to the climate emergency is informed by science (evidence) based targets and expert guidance to ensure it deploys the most effective solutions to help it tackle climate change. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Biodiversity | Trees | That the Council delivers on a commitment for a Forest for the Borough of Milton Keynes of (at a minimum) an additional one million trees. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Use land to capture and store carbon | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Biodiversity | Trees | That the Council include a greater commitment to deliver sustainable planting of trees and increasing biodiversity as part of any planning proposals for 11 dwellings or more including encouraging rewilding projects. | Recommen dation | Low emissions | Clean Air | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Council } \\ & \text { operations } \\ & \text { or Borough } \\ & \text { wide } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Communication, Engagement \& Education | Education | That the Council establishes a dedicated web and social media presence to provide information and news in support of its ambitions for a carbon neutral Milton Keynes. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Communication, <br> Engagement \& Education | Education | That the Council establishes or supports the establishment of a climate change advice service for businesses and residents. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Communication, Engagement \& Education | Education | That the Council develops and delivers a climate change public engagement programme to engage and empower citizens, Town and Parish Councils, community groups, schools and businesses, possibly through a Citizens Assembly, to enable everyone across the borough to achieve the aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. This would include establishing a Green Champions Community across Milton Keynes. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| Task \& Finish report | Energy Efficiencies | Buildings | That the Council assesses the energy efficiency of all of its properties including offices, social housing and schools, and retrofit these properties to Energy Performance Certificate C or higher and that all new council owned or commissioned properties are built to at least this standard. | Medium <br> term 2023 <br> 2027 | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Energy Efficiencies | Street Lighting | That the Council speed the progress of and complete the delivery of the switch to LED smart lights action across Milton Keynes. | Medium <br> term 2023 - <br> 2027 | Green energy |  | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Energy Efficiencies | Fuel poverty | That the Council develops a Strategy to tackle Fuel Poverty Borough wide. | Recommen dation |  | Inclusive economic growth | Hard deliverable | in house | Borough wide |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Energy Supply | Strategy | That the Council uses the carbon offset fund to establish a programme to deliver innovative and sustainable energy generation projects | Medium term 2023 <br> 2027 |  | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Energy Supply | Energy | That the Council explore the bulk purchase of renewable energy for example from offshore wind farms to provide lower cost sustainable energy options. | Recommen dation | Green energy | A secure \& resilient energy supply and distribution system | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Flooding | Flooding | That the Council invests in service provision in areas such as highways drainage clearance to deal with the increasing number of flash flooding rainfall incidents. | Recommen dation |  |  | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Governance | Policy | That the Council aligns all its strategies and policies to place its carbon neutrality and greenest city ambitions at the heart of all its work effectivity establishing a 'green/golden thread' throughout all its activity and ensuring that the reduction of carbon emissions is assessed as an impact in all reporting and decision making carbon emissions is assessed as an impact in all reporting and decision making processes. | Recommen dation |  | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Governance | Strategy | That the Council ensures that the appropriate staffing is in place to enable the delivery of the work programmes associated with its carbon neutral and greenest city ambitions. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020 \text { - } \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ |  | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Changes to day-to-day working | in house | Council operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Governance | Strategy | That the Council establishes a permanent cross-party Council Advisory Group or Scrutiny Committee to provide ongoing oversight to the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy Action Plan. | Recommen dation |  | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Governance | Strategy | That a climate change dashboard/scorecard is developed to report regularly the progress of the Sustainability Strategy Action Plan and on annual carbon budget and reduction targets. | Current |  | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Housing | Buildings | That in the review of the new Local Plan, and any related planning policy documents and building regulations, the Council prioritises policies to ensure that all existing and new residential and non-residential dwellings are built or retrofitted to achieve zero carbon standards. | Recommen dation | Green energy | High levels of green energy production | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Planning Policy | Strategy | That when the relevant planning policies are reviewed, for example Section 106 Agreements, that the Council look to maximise what it can receive for carbon reduction projects. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Medium } \\ & \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ & 2027 \end{aligned}$ |  | High levels of green energy production | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Planning Policy | Policy | That the Council place carbon reduction and the consideration of environmental impacts at the heart of the new Local Plan and associated planning policy documents. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Medium } \\ & \text { term } 2023 \text { - } \\ & 2027 \end{aligned}$ |  | High levels of green energy production | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Procurement | Contracts | That the Council include an agreed sustainability/environmental statement within tender documents and implement a percentage weighting of supplier environmental performance in its supplier/contractor selection process. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Short term } \\ & 2020- \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Staff \& Councillors | Travel | That the Council defines an optimum flexible working pattern and develops an enabling programme to reduce carbon impact of staff travel. | Current | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Low } \\ & \text { emissions } \end{aligned}$ | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Changes to day-to-day working | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Staff \& Councillors | Education | That the Council develops and delivers a climate change skills/learning and development programme for staff and councillors to improve understanding of carbon reduction and the wider environmental context. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Strategic change | in house | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Transport | Travel | That the Council undertakes a fleet review of all its vehicles (plus existing and/or potential supporting infrastructures to move towards a fleet of ultra-low emission vehicles. | Current | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Low } \\ & \text { emissions } \end{aligned}$ | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | contract | Council operation |
| Task \& Finish report | Transport | Travel | That the Council utilise all measures open to it to ensure that bus services are convenient, frequent, accessible, affordable, reliable, punctual and low carbon emitting and that this ultimately leads to reducing the need for private car use across the Borough. | Recommen dation | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Low } \\ & \text { emissions } \end{aligned}$ | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| Task \& Finish report | Transport | Travel | That the Council commit to pursuing franchising powers under the Bus Services Act 2017 | Recommen dation | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Low } \\ & \text { emissions } \end{aligned}$ | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | in house | Council operation |

Annex A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

| Source | Primary area | Theme | Recommendation / Action | Activity stage | Principle (SSAP) | Priority (SSAP hexagon) | Output | Extent of control | Council operations or Borough wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Task \& Finish report | Transport | Travel | That the Council delivers a borough wide programme to increase the number of journeys taken by walking and cycling. | Recommen dation | Low emissions | Reduce emissions from transport, agriculture and industry | Hard deliverable | influence | Borough wide |
| Task \& Finish report | Transport | Travel | That the Council considers the introduction of ultra-low emission zones where the air quality evidence suggests this mechanism would be beneficial. | Recommen dation | Low emissions | Clean Air | Hard deliverable | in house | Borough wide |
| Task \& Finish report | Waste | Policy | That the Council adopt circular economy waste policies as well as promoting residents and community sharing, reuse and recycling. | Recommen dation | Circular economy | Reduce waste and increase reuse of all materials | Strategic change | influence | Borough wide |
| Task \& Finish report | Working in Partnership | Strategy | That the Council establishes a 'Climate Change Partnership' to include a wide range of organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to work together to achieve a carbon neutral Milton Keynes by 2030 and that the Climate Change Partnership be responsible for developing and delivering a borough wide carbon neutral action plan. | Recommen dation |  | Encourage system wide thinking, design and models | Strategic change | influence | Borough wide |

## Milton Keynes Energy Prospectus

15 December 2020

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milion keynes councal

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## Foreword by Councillor Jenny Wilson-Marklew, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Sustainability

I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that Milton Keynes is a pretty special place to have grown up. On its redways I learnt to ride a bike, in its woods I found my deep and enduring love of nature and through its balancing lakes saw the genius of its architects in joining natural mechanisms with a highly planned and considered built environment. It is through this experience, being a child of a place like Milton Keynes, that I find myself writing the foreword to this ambitious document, through which we will lay out our plans to make Milton Keynes carbon neutral by 2030.

We now find ourselves facing new challenges. The spectre of climate change is beginning to seep into our lives - it is no longer a concept or something that happens to people in distant lands. The scientific community has reached a level of consensus rarely seen around the dangers of a rising global temperature and it's causes. It becomes incumbent upon all of us to take responsibility and play our part in limiting climate change's impact and preserving our home, our country and our planet for future generations. Within this document, we provide the background and context within which we are operating.

That said, it's not an easy thing to tackle - if it was, we'd have done it by now. It requires vast amounts of investment and changes to the way we live our lives. For many, this change is beyond their reach. When it is a struggle to get out of the door in the morning to get the kids to school on time, there often isn't the capacity to change the journey so that it can be done using a bus. When the struggle is being able to get food on the table, as it currently is for far too many, making considered choices about where that food has come from simply isn't an option. The burden cannot simply fall on individuals. There must be strong leadership coming from elsewhere.

Milton Keynes Council believes that it has an important role to play in delivering changes that will push us towards Carbon neutrality through investment, innovation, and strong leadership. This document sets out our plan. Through it, we articulate what we're doing and what we plan to do. It also highlights the invaluable role the Task and Finish Group have played. This document will be updated in six months' time to reflect their findings and recommendations.

This action plan is bold and ambitious. Its' purpose is to crystallise the depth and breadth of commitment we have made to reaching carbon zero. But more than that, it is a document of hope; the hope that we can play our part in making our world a better place for future generations.

## Purpose of this Prospectus

## Background

Milton Keynes Council (MKC) is embarking on an ambitious plan to execute the commitments made by its leadership to achieve net zero by 2030. In pursuit of this plan, MKC are taking a proactive position working across council service functions and with the people and businesses of Milton Keynes. MKC will facilitate progress but not just be a facilitator. The intent is for MKC to play a central co-ordinating role in decarbonising Milton Keynes and leading the way to net zero.

This prospectus sets out the opportunities as currently identified, current strategic partners and key stakeholders with an open invitation for others to engage with the MK Energy and Carbon Hub to open discussions on investment and innovation opportunities to stimulate the post Covid green recovery.

The Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050 sets out the ambition of MKC and its net zero ambition, to become the world's greenest city.

The Sustainability Strategy Action Plan outlines the scale of the challenge and the interventions required to reduce carbon emissions to zero for the council's own operations. Clean growth in the city is paramount to achieving net zero goals for the Borough itself.

This prospectus has been prepared with the following aims:

- To present the opportunities identified within the City for investment in low carbon infrastructure
- Identify priority projects for accelerated delivery
- Provide an overview of the role of the MK Energy and Carbon Hub in accelerating investment and delivery of clean growth and stimulating the local green economy, and Covid-19 recovery
- To support the objective in Strategy for 2050 and Plan:MK (the current local plan) to mitigate the Borough's impact on climate change and reduce CO2 emissions by promoting community energy networks and strategic renewable energy developments
- To support the delivery of the Strategy for 2050 and make Milton Keynes a leading green city

The facilitation and delivery of the opportunities and projects within this prospectus will be via the MK Energy and Carbon Hub, a unit to be initially hosted by MKC, with the aim of becoming self-financing and perhaps a separate entity. This prospectus outlines the role and purpose of this Hub.

With this prospectus MKC are declaring that Milton Keynes is open for net zero development and investment.

## Overview of Local Area

Milton Keynes has been the fastest growing city in the UK over the past three decades. With a population of approx. 270,000 and growth anticipated to accommodate around 410,000 people in the borough by 2050, ensuring that all future development is sustainable is key to mitigating the impact of growth on the city and surrounding areas and the utilisation of natural resources. Milton Keynes is unique in that its very layout means high quality green spaces (parks, lakes, woodlands and rivers) are close to every home. This green and blue infrastructure supports a higher degree of air quality and mitigates flood risk whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the city through the abundance of trees.

Our city is a special place. Everywhere, rich, peaceful landscapes surround our homes. Our networks of parks and lakes are gifts which keep on giving. Our city centre is one of the nation's most popular places to go shopping. We can easily travel around the city by car and our Redways provide traffic-free routes for walkers, cyclists and e-scooters. Being a good place to do business has made Milton Keynes the fastest growing city in the country.

Since the early 1950s, this part of North Buckinghamshire has been popular with families moving from London. Pioneers moved to a Bigger, Better, Brighter Bletchley and then to Milton Keynes: City of Trees. We have thrived by welcoming newcomers from all parts of the world and our diversity is an immense strength. Now, much of our growth comes from our children, and their children, building their families here. But today, not everyone shares in this prosperity. It can be difficult for some residents to get around our city or to access a good job. Too many of our young people live in poverty and do not gain the skills that they need to make their way in life.

By 2050, some 410,000 people will live in Milton Keynes borough, part of a Greater Milton Keynes of around half a million. Our Strategy for 2050 starts with some big promises to the residents of Milton Keynes today and in the decades to come. We will strengthen those things that make Milton Keynes special and deal with our weaknesses. This Strategy is for everyone, but especially our children and young people who are the future of our great city.

Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050

The structure of the city was designed for innovation and to retain the flexibility to adapt over time. On our individual estates, sites were reserved to provide space for future community facilities. At a city scale space was provided alongside grid roads to allow for road-widening or the introduction of mass rapid transport system, as proposed in the

Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050. This foresight on the part of the original city planners means that Milton Keynes is ready to accommodate the acceleration of clean growth activity.

## Achievements, Assets and Enablers

In Milton Keynes the drive towards low carbon and sustainability has always been at the forefront of design and development.

Over the years Milton Keynes has established itself as a leader for innovation in low energy buildings. In 1986 the Energy World Exhibition was opened, showcasing energy efficient housing and denoting a significant milestone for progressing design and construction of lowenergy housing. In 2005 Oakgrove School became the first secondary school to be built to the highest national environmental assessment method standard at the time, BREEAM "excellent". The school incorporates high standards of energy-efficiency and low environmental impact, including one of the biggest ground source heat pump installations in Europe.

Striving for a low carbon city has meant that reducing the environmental impact of buildings and transport in Milton Keynes has never been an afterthought. In 1972 the first house in the UK incorporating active solar heating as well as solar heated hot water was established in Milton Keynes. It was one of the few projects exploring alternative energy sources to oil. In 2008 Mercedes-Benz installed a wind turbine and industrial units in Bletchley began receiving supply of electricity from their own wind turbines. In the centre of Milton Keynes is the CMK heat network. This was established in 2007 and provides heat to The Hub, Vizion and The Pinnacle in the centre of the town as well as power via private wire and to the grid. We have led the way on carbon offsetting policies.

Over the years Milton Keynes has undertaken and co-ordinated research on sustainable energy technologies, and in 1986 the Open University opened the Energy and Environment Research Unit (EERU). In 1992 the city became the first to offer curb side recycling, and in 1993 it constructed the UK's first purpose-built Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). Today, in the North West of Milton Keynes lies the Wolverton Resource Campus (WRC). This houses the energy from waste facility that processes 132,000 tonnes of municipal waste per year and generates up to 7MW of electricity. The site has been set up to provide energy for the nearby Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and other local power demand.

Our innovation continues today with autonomous delivery robots - a scheme that was invaluable to many residents during the 2020 lockdown - and trials of driverless vehicles.

Innovations such as these, throughout the years, are what encourage Milton Keynes to pursue further developments to ensure they will be carbon neutral by 2030. The achievements to date lay a strong foundation for future low carbon development. This prospectus sets out the platform from which Milton Keynes can actively and profitably pursue its net zero ambitions and contribute to the UK Government targets set by the Climate Change Act. Milton Keynes has the opportunity to deliver on net zero ahead of the government target of 2050.

Milton Keynes Council has recently established a strategic partnership with Engie for the delivery of the Re:fit programme across the council estate. This will accelerate low carbon retrofits for existing building stock owned by the council - residential, commercial or industrial.

In parallel, to facilitate and accelerate investment and delivery of a programme of energy projects across Milton Keynes, the creation of ‘The MK Energy and Carbon Hub’ is underway. This will be an MKC led business unit that is designed to ensure the transition to carbon neutrality is possible through a combination of functions that enable rapid low carbon development.

## Future Clean Growth Potential

Milton Keynes presents a unique opportunity to deploy localised energy schemes that can supply the needs of heat, power and low carbon transportation, ensuring that all citizens and businesses have the opportunity to benefit from the ambitious net zero plans being put forward by MKC.

Central Milton Keynes (CMK) will be key to accelerating clean growth come forward and to understand which types of facilities and activities we might want to encourage in which places. Through our Renaissance:CMK project we are working with Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) to create a new framework for growth and investment in CMK.

The potential for the existing heat network to extend its reach to the Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH) presents further opportunities to accelerate the delivery of low carbon heat to serve the hospital campus, soon to be extended with a new children's and maternity unit. The hospital campus is flanked by estates to be included in the regeneration programme, with the potential for energy centres to be at the core of a programme of retrofit upgrades.

The MK Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP) to the north west already generates significant power that is either used locally or sold through the grid connection to the grid. The heat output of the MKWRP is not currently utilised, so presents a further opportunity for local integration through for example, the piping of waste heat to the estates within the regeneration programme, connecting to the CMK heat network or providing heat to other local businesses. There is a significant amount of available land adjacent to the MKWRP which could allow for the intensification of energy generation locally.

To the East of the city is Magna Park - a significant business and distribution hub that provides access to the M1 and across the country. Here lies a further opportunity for the development of localised energy solutions to support demand. Working together to secure the supply to the occupiers of Magna Park could be a significant step in underwriting the required investment to build infrastructure.

Figure 1 depicts the above opportunities.


Figure 1 (draft visual)

The council's regeneration programme is focused on making positive and long-lasting differences for people and families in Milton Keynes, and there are at least five upcoming regeneration schemes that will develop over the coming years. Further to this there is the new development in planning at Tickford Fields as well as MKC's ambition to set up a housing development company.

The Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 highlights the importance of long-term planning for growth, which includes making available the infrastructure and services such as transport, health, social care, schools, shops, leisure, sports and cultural facilities that are essential for existing and new communities. By planning this upfront we can make the case for investments that will serve us well into the future, rather than reacting as pressures arise.

Bringing together a common framework for delivery of heat and power, aligned with infrastructure for low carbon mass rapid transportation, is necessary and provides the opportunity for net zero at inception. The MK Energy and Carbon Hub will work very closely with strategic partners to ensure net zero is at the heart of all investment in the council's assets.

## Potential Financial and Investment Opportunity

Developing energy and infrastructure projects is complex and requires a systematic commercial approach in order to achieve the best outcomes. The diagram below illustrates that under MKC leadership there is potential for the MK Energy and Carbon Hub to develop projects from inception through to delivery with potential exit points along the way. A core function of the Hub will be to optimise the balance between risk and return to a manageable level for the Council across its portfolio on energy projects. For some projects it may be appropriate to seek a full or partial exit at a particular stage, whereas others may be acquired part way through the development process or developed through to operation.

By retaining a portfolio-based view of all activities, the Hub will deliver a highly performant suite of interventions which will accelerate the drive towards net zero whilst delivering solid returns. This enables the broadest set of positive outcomes possible to all stakeholders including the council, residents and local businesses. Figure 2 below demonstrates how this could be achieved.


Figure 2 - Project development stages

## Enabling Delivery

## Project Enabler - MK Energy and Carbon Hub

To facilitate and accelerate investment and delivery of a programme of energy projects across Milton Keynes, the creation of an Energy and Carbon Hub (Hub) for Milton Keynes is underway. This will be an MKC led business unit that is designed to ensure the transition to carbon neutrality is possible through a combination of functions that enable rapid low carbon development.

Governance of the Hub will be led by MKC and to accelerate delivery of the first suite of projects will be set up as an internal function with a clear commercial remit. In time it is likely that the unit may be run as a separate company, and to prepare for that a Shadow Board will be put in place to provide oversight of the programme, alongside a steering committee to support the development of investment ready projects. The Hub will have the overview of opportunities across the city for low carbon investment with key strategic relationships in place to support dialogue with investors and developers who share the ambition for Milton Keynes to become the first net zero city.

The functions of the Hub are shown in Figure 3.


Figure 3-MK Energy and Carbon Hub functions

The Hub will be an enabler at its core. By being central to the carbon neutral transition and through proactive and positive engagement with the market the Hub will provide Assurance to the market by helping to mitigate planning, development and operational risk. It can provide Stability through access to market and commercial agreements for the offtake of energy. It will provide a Framework for Engagement with all types of energy user. Any generated Surplus will be used for MKC improved service provision - including action on fuel poverty and air quality. It will Deliver net zero for Milton Keynes.

The MK Energy and Carbon Hub will work hand in hand with our service functions to accelerate development. Within three to five years the Hub will be targeted to become selffunding whilst creating employment and reducing emissions.

## Functions of the MK Energy and Carbon Hub

The Hub, upon set up, would be tasked with developing and delivering the net zero ambitions of the council, bringing together a package of deliverable and executable projects that fit within the overall ambition - to help MK become the greenest city in the world. The respective functions will include:

Programme leadership - defining and developing an overall executable masterplan. This function will ensure alignment between policy and delivery, retaining focus on the target of net zero and the interventions possible to achieve that goal. In a phased approach, development is likely to be focused initially on MKC owned assets using Re:fit, with a view to expansion to working with local landowners, occupiers, industrial users and beyond MKC boundaries.

Project Development - this is the process of developing ready to build, investible projects and will include initial feasibility studies to ascertain commercial viability of projects. Once viability has been confirmed, this function will ensure that all required aspects of a project are secure and deliverable - including (but not limited to) ground assessments, planning and environmental permitting, grid studies and connections, risk assessments, offtake agreements, feedstock agreements.

Once all aspects of a project are secure it can be traded to realise uplift in value, built out as a going concern council asset or developed in partnership with development partners. Such decisions will be technology, asset and risk based to ensure a balanced portfolio.

Delivery Partnerships - in line with the objectives of the project development function it will be critical to be able to access the market quickly and seamlessly. An important function will be the management of delivery partnerships which will span the land and professional services landscape.

Land - the Hub will actively seek direct and active relationships with local landowners and developers to ensure the flow of land to underpin the ambitions of MKC and the Hub. This may be in the form of securing land for development from local landowners or could equally be the letting of land under option or lease to developers seeking to develop net zero based projects.

Professional Services - there will be a variety of services required for projects depending upon the technology as well as the inputs and outputs of the projects. It is expected that this function will recruit, maintain and manage a range of suppliers of required services that will be called upon as needed through the development process. As a guide, the services to be supplied will include (but may not be limited to):

| Planning | - Engineering | - Engineer, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - Environmental permitting | - Feedstock supply | Procure, Construct |
| - Land condition | - Energy | (EPC) |
| - Grid | brokerage | contractors |
| consultancy | - Technology | - Operations |
| - Specialist legal | suppliers | and |
| services | - Waste | Maintenance |
| - Design | contractors | contractors |

Through careful management, the professional services function will minimise risk on projects through ensuring swift and accurate execution of project development delivered by experienced teams of specialists. Whilst the list above does not cover all potential services requirements the discipline and governance instilled in the delivery management function will enable the Hub to bring new contractors on board quickly as required.

Programme leadership, project development and links to the Council operations will be provided by a core team within the Council of 2FTE, drawing in specialist expertise for each project as the programme develops, identifying funding and financing opportunities for project development and delivery. As the portfolio of projects and renewable assets grows, and revenue streams increase, the Hub will aim to expand to further accelerate investment and develop longer term energy infrastructure projects. The core team supported by the steering committee will be the gateway for low carbon investors to engage with the Hub and MKC to collaborate on the net zero ambition.

We plan to continue to invest in the Hub through 21/22, reducing this through 22/23, with an ambition for it to deliver a surplus in 23/24.

## Strategic Partners \& Stakeholders

The Hub will utilise the existing strategic partnerships that are in place with the council to deliver on this ambitious programme and seek to forge new partnerships that will complement the ongoing work and support the acceleration of investment and delivery of additional opportunities.

## Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships are providing support to MKC across a range of activity related to climate response, including the delivery of the Re:fit programme, the development of the Supplementary Planning Document for Sustainable Construction policy SC1 of Plan:MK and the creation of the MK Energy and Carbon Hub.

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and the Welsh Government and provide an interface between central government policy and local delivery.

Its principal responsibility is to deliver expert support to the public sector, helping make best use of limited resources as demand for services continues to rise. Local Partnerships co-own the Re:fit Energy Performance Contract framework with the Greater London Authority, and are working with a number of councils across England to respond to the climate emergency.

## Engie \& Re:fit

MKC are partnered with Engie, to deliver a wide ranging programme of energy projects across the council estate via a Re:fit Energy Performance Contract (EPC).

This programme will deliver a programme of works across multiple phases, beginning with corporate council properties with schools, sheltered housing, council owned housing and land assets for renewable energy projects to follow in subsequent phases.

The Re:fit programme has a performance guarantee attached to it, ensuring that the forecast energy and carbon savings are delivered and accelerating the progress to net zero. Engie's role as MKC's Re:fit Service Provider and strategic partner makes the most of the breadth of expertise that they will bring to Milton Keynes, and a major role in delivering the interventions required to reach net zero emissions by 2030.

## Western Power Distribution

Western Power Distribution is the company responsible for electricity distribution in the Midlands, South West and Wales. The opportunities within this Prospectus will require connections to the existing grid and early engagement between the Hub and the district network operator (DNO) will facilitate the development and delivery of larger scale projects, where there is limited grid capacity available.

## The Parks Trust

The Parks Trust is an independent charity that cares for over 6,000 acres of parkland and green space in Milton Keynes. This includes the river valleys, ancient woodlands, lakesides, parks and landscaped areas alongside the main roads that represent $25 \%$ of the city. The Trust leases land from MKC on a 999-year lease and grows it's asset portfolio as the city grows and new green space is created and acquired. The Parks Trust will be a key stakeholder for the development of projects and delivery of net zero across the city.

## Milton Keynes Development Partnership

Milton Keynes Development Partnership LLP (MKDP) is owned by Milton Keynes Council. It facilitates Milton Keynes' continued growth and economic success by promoting the development of its land assets to deliver economic and social value from its 70+ sites in line with the Council's Plan and Plan:MK. The MKDP estate comprises around 265 developable acres.

Its role is to develop and grow stakeholder relationships with investors, developers, occupiers and others to provide a fair playing field conducive to conducting professional property business.

MKDP is operated by a specialist team who report to MKDP's board and Milton Keynes Council.

## Mears

Mears work in partnership with MKC to deliver repairs and maintenance, capital investment programmes and asset management related services to their $\mathrm{c} .11,500$ social housing stock within the City and surrounding areas. The partnership delivers a stock investment
programme; ensures statutory compliance; delivers core maintenance, void and adaptation services and provides a joined up, forward thinking approach to all aspects of the housing stock

## Project Development

A number of opportunities across the city have been identified, in addition to the ongoing Re:fit programme and additional sites which are generally clustered in three locations, and summarised in Figure 4.


Figure 4 - initial opportunity clusters

The opportunities currently identified that are additional to the programme of work to be delivered by Re:fit and Engie are set out in Table 2, followed by detail as to how these are clustered around the Wolverton Resource Campus, CMK and reaching out to the regeneration areas surrounding Milton Keynes University Hospital and the Magna Park distribution hub. The existing and new school estate and new residential development across the eastern and western expansion areas delivering approximately 60,000 new homes, between now and 2050, will contribute to the carbon neutrality target with low and zero carbon placemaking.

| Project | Opportunity | Type | Potential <br> Capacity <br> (MW) | Counci//MK <br> Energy \& Carbon Hub Role | Fuel <br> Poverty/Resilience | Decarbonisation | Climate <br> Emergency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wolverton Resource Campus | Energy from Waste | Power | 6700 | Operation |  | x | x |
|  | Heat offtake | Heat | 22000 | Opportunity | x | x | x |
|  | Anaerobic Digester | CHP | 1200 | Opportunity |  | x | x |
|  | Battery storage | Power | 5000 | Opportunity |  |  | x |
|  | Solar PV | Power | 15000 | Opportunity |  | x | x |
|  | Materials Recycling <br> Facility (MRF) | Private <br> Wire | 1000 | Opportunity |  | x | x |
|  | Refuse Collection <br> Vehicle (RCV) | Private <br> Wire |  | Opportunity |  | x | X |
| CMK | New Development | Power <br> Transport | tbc | Opportunity |  |  |  |
|  | CMK Heat Network Expansion | Heat <br> Power | tbc | Operation | x | x | x |
|  | Heat supply | Heat | 6400 | Facilitator / <br> Owner / Offtaker | x | x | X |
| Magna Park | Trigeneration | Power | tbc | Opportunity |  |  |  |
|  |  | Heat | tbc | Opportunity | x | x | x |
|  |  | Coolth | tbc | Opportunity |  |  |  |
|  | Low Carbon Fuels | Heat | 6400 | Opportunity | x | x | X |


| Project | Opportunity | Type | Potential <br> Capacity (MW) | Council Role | Fuel <br> Poverty/Resilience | Decarbonisation | Climate <br> Emergency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Regeneration <br> Estates | Micro - energy | Power <br> Heat | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Solar PV | Power | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Heat network | Heat | tbc | Opportunity | x | X | X |
| Development: <br> Tickford Fields | Low carbon homes | Efficiency | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Digital City | Smart | tbc | Opportunity | x | x | X |
|  | Energy system | Heat Power | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Transportation | Low carbon | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |
| Council Homes (11,500 existing homes) | Rooftop solar | Power | tbc | Operation / Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Heat networks | Heat | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
|  | Tariff's | Supply | tbc | Opportunity | X |  |  |
|  | Net Zero <br> Housebuilding | Efficiency | tbc | Opportunity | X | X | X |
| Schools | Solar PV | Power | tbc | Operation / Opportunity |  | X | X |
|  | Energy Centres | Power Heat | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |
|  | Net Zero | Efficiency | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |
| Low carbon Fleet (Buses, Fleet, RCV, HGV) | Refuelling stations | Multivector | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |
|  | Hydrogen | Power | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |
|  | Electric Vehicles | Power | tbc | Opportunity |  | X | X |

## North West: Wolverton Resource Campus

The Wolverton Resource Campus is a core focus for low carbon energy, at the centre of which is the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP), which is an energy from waste plant processing 132,000 tonnes of municipal waste per year and capable of generating 7MW of electricity. Nearby is a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) as well as the siting for the waste fleet. The campus itself is near to Wolverton and the main North / South National Rail route. It is proposed that a direct private wire connection is made between the MKWRP to the MRF and the adjacent Environmental Services Depot to power the recycling facility and potentially a low/zero emissions fleet. The private wire network would utilise approximately 1MW of power from MKWRP maximising the potential of the waste to energy facility and overcoming any export constraints as the MKWRP is optimised.

Opportunities:

Heat - The residual heat of the plant at the Air Cooled Condenser is about 22 MWth , but this is steam at low pressure and only 40 C of temperature so very little potential for heating. A turbine bleed to extract heat at better conditions could be considered but this would result in a corresponding reduction to the electricity produced at the plant. This would need to be contractually accounted for with Amey, the operator of the Energy from Waste plant. There is the potential to connect this heat to the nearby development at Fuller Slade for district heating. A connection to the heat network in CMK could also be possible.

Power - Private wire to Network Rail. This could be an ideal export for the electricity from the MKWRP which could yield increased revenues for MKC as well as reducing the cost of power for Network Rail. However, connecting at nearby Wolverton is not possible without constructing a new transformer which for the level of power to be supplied is not viable. The nearest potential connection is at Leighton Buzzard which is too far away to be viable. However, should the potential offtake be increased the economics for building a new substation at Wolverton could be improved. Viability of such a scheme would need to be tested.

Renewable power - There are two main opportunities here with rooftop solar PV for the building facilities on MKWRP and to utilise adjacent land owned by MKC but leased to the Parks Trust on a long-term lease arrangement. There is a proposal to install $200-250 \mathrm{kWp}$ of solar capacity at MKWRP in 2021. There are up to 20 hectares which may be available which could house $10-15 \mathrm{MW}$ of ground mounted solar and the land could also be considered as potential for wind generation development. Good practice would be to develop such generation facilities in conjunction with battery storage with the output used locally where possible via private wire.

Refuse Deriver Fuel - A potential output of MKWRP is Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). The bulk, 90,000 tonnes per year, of the RDF is processed on site in an Advanced Thermal Treatment process. There is a potential to accept more waste inputs into MKWRP with a view to producing RDF for exporting
to be a feedstock for localised generation - perhaps on the regeneration estates or new developments across MK supporting a move towards a circular economy.

Transportation / Fleet - Also adjacent to the MKWRP is the Environmental Services depot which operates a fleet of refuse collection vehicles (RCV) and the Arriva bus depot. There is potential for the conversion of these vehicles to electric with the power output from the MKWRP and solar facilities to dramatically reduce the cost of refuelling.

Summary - There is a clear opportunity to build on the current energy facilities in place at the MKWRP to both utilise what is generated currently more efficiently through the use of private wire export and making use of the waste heat as a feedstock for district heating networks. Further to this there is an opportunity to intensify renewable energy generation through the development of solar and wind schemes.

## Central Milton Keynes

Low carbon development within CMK will support the aims of the Renaissance:CMK to create an even stronger and more successful city centre that is fit for the challenges of the mid-21st century. Through investment in new employment, residential, retail and leisure opportunities, drawing on the benefits that could be created by a new city centre university, and (re)developing vacant or underused buildings and land, Renaissance:CMK will help to create a prosperous city centre and capitalise on our position at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

The existing heat network in CMK, with the energy centre located behind the CBX complex can present opportunities for the expansion of this network and development for low carbon heat. This includes meeting future heat demand for major development within the city centre.

## Opportunities:

CMK District Heat Network - the existing district heat system in CMK is the first place to look to expand and decarbonise energy. Future development in CMK could look to connect to the CMK heat network, adding demand capacity and heat generation capacity and enabling the network itself to grow. By taking such an approach, this could enable the expansion of a CMK heat network hub with future major developments as anchor loads. There may be potential that the heat network could also be extended to the WRP to the North West, Magna Park to the East, the MKUH campus and the regeneration schemes across the city.

Power - Future developments will have significant demand for power so there is likely to be a viable business case for power generation as a component of the development. This may be in the form of an energy centre and almost certainly could benefit from solar PV cladding or rooftop arrays to deliver low carbon power. The energy centre could also be set up as a processing site for SRF from MKWRP generating power and heat for the development and the heat network.

Summary - City centre developments provide unique opportunities from an energy perspective to really drive towards low carbon. By taking a strategic approach it will be possible to deliver a commercially viable low carbon energy system that can support the centre of Milton Keynes as well as exporting to other parts of the City. This alongside the MKWRP can stand as the cornerstone for the net zero ambitions of the council.

## East: Magna Park

Magna Park, to the East of Milton Keynes, is a significant logistics and distribution hub. Occupiers at Magna Park are significant users of heat, power, coolth and transport fuel. Consequently, Magna Park is a source of significant emissions for Milton Keynes and therefore becomes a target for low carbon development. At the time of writing there is limited renewable generation on site so there is an opportunity to work with the owners and occupiers of Magna Park as potential offtakers for localised generation.

Opportunities:

Solar PV - with many hectares of roof space this provides a perfect location for rooftop solar. Based on the potential roof space across Magna Park, there could be the potential for $20+\mathrm{MW}$ of rooftop solar PV to be built in partnership with the owners and occupiers providing low cost, low carbon power.

Tri-generation - with the significant demand for heat, power and coolth there is the opportunity to develop a local energy station and distribution networks for each energy vector, improving the efficiency of the depots on site, reducing costs and lowering the carbon footprint. The feedstock for this could be the Solid Recovered Fuel generated at WRC.

Low carbon transportation fuels - with such demand for transportation fuel locally, there is a natural market for the shift to low carbon fuels - hydrogen, electricity, biodiesel and compressed natural gas. It may be possible to construct the planned biomethane refuelling station adjacent to an energy station to harness low carbon power as the fuel to generate / store / distribute low carbon transportation fuel.

Summary - as such a large occupier and source of demand, Magna Park has the potential to in effect underwrite the energy generation ambitions of MK. With significant and increasing pressure on decarbonisation the owner and occupiers of the park will be ideal partners to develop long term net zero strategies alongside.

## Regeneration and Estate Renewal

Across Milton Keynes there are seven identified regeneration estates including Fullers Slade and Serpentine Court.

The Community Led Regeneration and Estate renewal Strategy 2020 will plan and build suitably designed homes and neighbourhoods that reduce carbon consumption, air and noise pollution level and prevent energy and water wastage. For new developments, green energy generation schemes will be included, for example at Serpentine Court there is an energy centre proposed as part of the design. Given these estates are mixed use there is an ideal opportunity to develop an energy system that balances generation against demand through the day and night.

Opportunities:

Micro energy - development of small-scale energy centres to generate heat and power for the local regeneration developments. This could be fuelled by RDF from MKWRP or waste from other sources

Solar PV - a standard for all development in MK should include a 'solar where possible' provision. Thus, where possible through the regeneration sites solar PV on rooftops should be an expectation.

Heat - further to the micro-generation opportunity highlighted, seek to connect localised district heating to the main MK clusters - MKWRP, CMK and Magna Park where possible. Where it is not possible to develop a heat network, ground and air source heat pump technology are to be deployed. Given the multi-use nature of the developments, taking a balanced and integrated view of the energy vectors should be a standard consideration, ensuring that retail, education and business energy demands are balanced against residential demand.

## Homes and Housebuilding

Any new development in Milton Keynes will be subject to the same low carbon policy requirements of Plan:MK. The default in all cases is net zero.

The council owns some 11,500 homes and aspire to set up a commercial house builder to grow the council stock and housing capability. This is a significant stock and presents an opportunity to develop modular and "wrap around" solutions that can be retrofitted to homes to reduce carbon footprint, drive and support the transition to net zero. MKDP are developing a Local Housing Company, and alongside the continued house building programme in the eastern and western expansion areas there is a substantial opportunity for Milton Keynes to lead the way with low carbon place making.

As an example, Tickford Fields will generate 928 residential units in a mixed-use development, which opens an opportunity to design the energy system from beneath the ground up with the grandest ambitions for low carbon heat, power and transportation. There is opportunity for ground mount PV to serve the development.

Opportunities:

Low carbon homes - deploy the latest building material and technology to minimise the energy impact of homes to be built on the estate. This can minimise the need even for localised generation schemes through building generation and storage and high-quality insulation.

Walk up areas - minimise the infrastructure required for transportation by incorporating all needs within the development. Where external travel is required, institute low carbon vehicle sharing schemes or home delivery.

Digital City - deploy digital technologies to maximise efficiency opportunities and create a truly smart city including energy as service and real time matching of energy supply and demand. Leverage such achievement to expand out into the rest of the city.

Solar PV - wherever a home has a roof that is not shaded or has plans for development the default position will be to install solar PV, potentially with a battery storage solution to balance and reduce energy bills. This is a simple and proven method to lower the carbon footprint of homes.

Heat - for existing homes, look to improve the insulation deployed on them and aim to connect into district heating networks. For new homes, seek to insulate to the highest standards and use technology to drive efficiency.

Digital - create an immersive and interactive experience for residents such that they can participate in the energy system, see how their actions can save them money and reduce their carbon footprint.

## Schools Infrastructure

Milton Keynes is home to more than 120 schools, each of which stands at the centre of the local community providing education and some ancillary services. The energy demand of schools is of course focused on times of operation during term time and much activity has focused in recent years on efficiency related interventions. Across the UK, many schools have invested in solar rooftop systems and some benefit from modern building standards as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme in the mid - late 2000's.

Given the location of most schools are central to communities, there is the potential for them to also play a role within the energy system for both supply and demand. It is recommended that a modular systems-based approach is taken to drive energy interventions that will unlock new generation and aim to match demand to supply in local areas.

Opportunities:

Solar PV - rooftop solar is an obvious starting point for schools that have not already benefited from such interventions. A standardised modular approach to this for the schools of Milton Keynes should enable low cost delivery of systems and low carbon energy to schools. In many cases, this should be considered alongside battery storage to maximise the potential of solar power within the school and allow for grid balancing - particularly not in term time.

Heat - schools have a significant demand for heat during the winter and so where possible should be connected to heat networks. Where schools have swimming pools, these can be a very suitable heat sink - saving heating costs using waste heat and providing a source of heat at times of high demand.

Energy Centres - where space allows, schools can be ideal situations for the development of communal energy generation, both providing heat and power internally to the school and externally to heat and power networks.

Efficiency - along with any energy scheme there should be a focus on efficiency and minimising any wasted heat or power. These can be driven through a mixture of hard and soft interventions focusing on the upgrade of equipment to the latest efficient standards whilst also driving communication programmes to the teachers and pupils advising and educating on how to minimise
energy use. Experience suggests that such programmes have a positive knock on effect as children take the messages home and question energy related actions in the household.

Summary - schools can be a focal point for local communities and may benefit from a modular approach to delivering efficient energy systems. From a geographic perspective they can be ideally situated to act as local hubs - within new developments, regenerations schemes as well as existing conurbations. There are opportunities for investment in existing schools utilising the Re:fit energy performance contract with Engie.

## Low carbon transport and fleet

In terms of emissions a significant proportion is generated from transportation which almost by definition carries pollution to all corners of towns and cities. There is a concerted drive from Central Government to increase the adoption of low carbon vehicles with the electric car leading the way. Further to this, active travel is also being driven as a direct response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The original 1970 Plan for Milton Keynes created the grid road network with the flexibility and space for a fixed-track public transport system. Through long-term planning a modern version of this in the form of a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) network can be delivered. This would be a public transport system with frequent services to and from our key destinations, capable of carrying many passengers at times of peak demand with competitive ticket prices. New electric-powered vehicles, similar to a tram in functionality and quality, can run on road surfaces rather than expensive, fixed rail infrastructure, and in future will be driverless.

From a fleet perspective, MK is examining the options for a shift of bus and RCV's across to low carbon vehicles. This as an initiative could be expanded to all municipal fleet across the city as well as working in partnership with other public and private entities to encourage adoption. As adoption rises, there will be pressure on MKC to provide sufficient infrastructure to support it. This will be in terms of the street charging furniture, depot charging infrastructure and the reinforcements required for the local grid to withstand a potential uplift in demand.

Opportunities:

Refuelling stations - provision of multi-vector low carbon refuelling stations for the main transport hubs could help to release any resistance to a transition to low carbon. Such refuelling hubs could be powered by locally generated renewable energy (and as such provide an advantageous offtake opportunity) and provide fuel for electric, hydrogen, biodiesel, compressed or liquid natural gas vehicles.

Hydrogen - hydrogen is seen as a potential answer as a fuel for long distance HGV transportation and citywide bus services. Whilst the market remains fairly new, there is an opportunity to create a local hydrogen market for larger vehicle refuelling, thus underpinning any investment in infrastructure.

Electric Vehicles - these are leading the way in the low carbon transportation sector and require significant infrastructure to reduce range anxiety and issues of queuing for charging. MKC have led the way in recent years with the installation of charging infrastructure which can be built upon, enhanced and developed for the fleet of the future. In the knowledge that a major shift to EV's is coming, the opportunity is for MKC to get ahead of the game and install additional infrastructure. Working closely with EVCP suppliers there may be the opportunity for revenue share or renewable offtake to drive a positive commercial model for the council.

## Conclusion

This prospectus sets out the carbon neutral ambitions for Milton Keynes and the delivery mechanism for developing a broad yet deliverable pipeline of low and zero carbon opportunities across sector and stretching across the city. This pipeline will of course flex as new initiatives, technologies and innovations are introduced to the market.

The Energy and Carbon Hub will be an agile unit, resourced to be fleet of foot to identify and deliver worthwhile opportunities as they arise, and to quickly discount activity that could take up valuable resource for little gain on the pathway to carbon neutrality.

The steering committee will support the direction of activity, and an invitation to landowners and investors is extended to engage with the Hub.

## PATHWAY TO ZERO EMISSIONS

The pathway to zero emissions started with Milton Keynes Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by $40 \%$ by 2020 against a 2005 baseline for its own operations. The progress against this target has been regularly reported and utilised the data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It was primarily based on the data MKC submitted under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) which had some very specific reporting boundaries. The target has been achieved and the target for MK is now to have net zero emissions by 2030 from a 2018/19 baseline.

To ensure MKC has a transparent and specific reporting boundary for emissions the baseline data has been recalculated for 2018/19 to enable the development of the trajectory to net zero by 2030 to be set. This resetting of the baseline has used the data held by MKC to calculate emissions at a more granular level of detail and setting a wider reporting boundary than the CRC used, and has resulted in an increase in emissions. The increase, however, does ensures that all relevant emissions sources have now been reported for Council operations within financial control. From this, opportunities for interventions that will make the most impact in reducing emissions can be more readily identified.

To become net zero by 2030 for the Council's own operations a trajectory for emissions reductions should be mapped to assist with setting carbon budgets and identify opportunities for emissions reduction.

There are two basic approaches available for building an emissions budget trajectory (or target emissions). These are as follows:
a) Linear - A simple linear regression with a fixed reduction year on year
b) Exponential - An approach based more on exponential decay. This approach recognises that there are measures which we can take today at scale and pace which are cost effective and represent good practice. This approach works hardest in the early years, recognising that some of the latter reductions are likely to be harder to achieve and takes a more realistic view that around $5 \%$ of emissions will be too difficult to reduce and will need treating in other ways. It is recommended that the MKC pathway to net zero follow the exponential trajectory as close as possible.

The pathway to 2030 has been modelled to show a linear and exponential pathway, and a scenario using planned interventions and assumptions about additional scenarios to identify the "gap" that needs to be addressed by additional carbon reduction programmes and investment. It should be noted that with the exception of the conversion of grey fleet (staff business mileage) to EV, all the interventions that have been modelled are in development - this is in contrast to other councils who are beginning to model the "potential interventions", MKC has a programme of activity planned to reduce emissions by approximately 12,000 tCO2e by 2024.

The options are.
a) Do nothing, rely on decarbonisation of the grid only (figure 1)
b) Delivery of a programme of interventions (figure 2), including

- Re:fit Energy Performance Contract (planned)
- Street light LED conversion (planned)
- Fleet conversion to EV and biomethane (planned)
- Grey fleet conversion to EV (staff business mileage - not yet planned)
- Purchase of renewable energy supplies for grid supplied electricity (planned)

The following graphs show that further interventions are required if MKC is to reach net zero emissions for its own operations by 2030.
Figure 1 Target emissions scenarios
Emissions in 2030 17,355 tCO2e
Do nothing scenario - decarbonisation of grid only.


## Figure 2 Target emissions scenarios

Planned interventions completed. Emissions in 2030 12,820 tCO2e

Interventions: Re:fit tranche 1, fleet conversions, staff business mileage conversion to EV, street lighting conversion to LED
Increase in projected emissions due to BEIS forecast figures for grid decarbonisation higher than actual.
c) A combination of the decarbonisation of the grid and the delivery of a programme of interventions plus a method to account for the remaining emissions.

Figure 3 (below) shows what the level of emissions are once all of the planned interventions are accounted for plus a switch to a green electricity tariff to ensure that grid supplied electricity is from renewable sources by 2024 but this highlights that MKC will still need to reduce emissions for its own operations by c $7,000 \mathrm{tCO} 2 \mathrm{e}$.

To address this emissions gap further, and remain close to the exponential trajectory interventions will be required over the remaining 6 years to 2030. Such interventions will need to become more varied and begin to be designed now, but might include:

- Streetlighting - carbon savings from remainder of the programme to upgrade 19,400 lanterns post 21/22
- Delivery of further tranches of the Re:fit programme across MKC portfolio of buildings and schools.
- Achievement of carbon sequestration from new woodlands - a project currently in development.
- Offset options which could include, for example
- Development or investment in 31MW of solar would be required to address emissions gap (5MW solar PV requires approx. 6 hectares (c14 acres) or 5 football pitches)
- Investment in offshore wind farms (RenewableUK/BEIS estimate a single turbine will generate sufficient electricity to offset $\mathrm{c} 25,000 \mathrm{tCO}_{2} \mathrm{e}$ )


## Figure 3 Target emissions scenarios


Increase in projected emissions due to BEIS forecast figures for grid decarbonisation higher than actual.

## Cabinet report

## 15 December 2020

Council Tax Base 2021/22

| Name of Cabinet Member | Councillor Rob Middleton <br> Cabinet member for Resources |
| :--- | :--- |
| Report sponsor | Steve Richardson <br> Director Finance and Resources |
| Report author | Lisa Wheaton <br> Budget and Financial Planning Manager <br> lisa.wheaton@milton-keynes.gov.uk |
| 01908 254827 |  |

## Executive Summary

The report sets out; the main assumptions used in calculating the Council Tax Base for 2021/22; confirms the level of funding the Council will pay to town and parish councils for Local Council Tax Reduction and how this funding will be distributed.

The Business Rates Baseline 2021/22 will be included with the Draft Budget report going to Delegated Decision in December.

## 1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That the 2021/22 Tax Base be set at 86,213.75 Band D equivalent properties.
1.2 That the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 be set at $2.60 \%$ producing an expected collection rate of $97.4 \%$.
1.3 That the proposed 2021/22 funding contribution to parish and town councils of $£ 0.325 \mathrm{~m}$, as set out in Annex D, be noted and recommended to Council for approval as part of the final Budget in February 2021.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out:

- the main assumptions used in calculating the Council Tax Base for 2021/22
- the level of Council funding to be distributed to parish and town councils in 2021/22 to offset a proportion of their financial loss as a result of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)
- the funding distribution between the individual parishes and town councils

Funding for Parishes
2.2 The introduction of the LCTRS reduces the Tax Base, and therefore the Council Tax income collected by individual precepting bodies. However, Central Government funding to major preceptors offset a significant proportion of the impact for this change, although this is reducing each year.
2.3 Additional Government funding, as part of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is also provided to major precepting authorities on behalf of town and parish councils to offset a proportion of their reduced Tax Base as a result of the scheme. From April 2013 this grant has formed part of the Council's RSG.
2.4 The RSG is a non ring-fenced source of funding that the Council receives from the Government for the provision of statutory functions and local service provision and together with Business Rates makes up the Council's Formula Grant. In the period 2013/14 to 2019/20 Milton Keynes's RSG had reduced from $£ 61 \mathrm{~m}$ to $£ 5.5 \mathrm{~m}$, a reduction of $90 \%$. Overall Formula Grant had fallen by $48 \%$ over this period.
2.5 Following consultation in Summer 2019 the size of funding available was reduced to $£ 0.325 \mathrm{~m}$ in 2020/21 to reflect the reductions in Formula Grant. A new methodology for distribution was also agreed,

- $50 \%$ of grant by notional loss of precept income
- $50 \%$ of grant using Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019)
2.6 For $2020 / 21$ transitional funding of $£ 0.125 \mathrm{~m}$ was also approved.
2.7 For $2021 / 22$ it is proposed that the funding level is maintained at $£ 0.325 \mathrm{~m}$ and the distribution methodology remains as per paragraph 2.21.
2.8 The provisional funding allocations to parish and town councils are illustrated in Annex D. The final allocations will need to be approved as part of the 2021/22 Budget in February 2021.

3. Implications of the decision

| Financial | Yes | Human rights, equalities, diversity | No |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Legal | Yes | Policies or Council Plan | Yes |
| Communication | No | Procurement | No |
| Energy Efficiency | No | Workforce | No |

a) Legal implications

Local Government Finance Act 1992, Local Government Finance Act 2003
Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England)
Regulations 2012.
4. Timetable for implementation
4.1 24 February 2021 - Final Budget for Council approval.

## Annexes

Annex A - Calculation of Council Tax Base 2021/22
Annex B - Council Tax Base 2021/22 by Parish and Town Council
Annex C - Council Tax Base before Discounts and Exemptions
Annex D - 2021/22 Parish and Town Council Funding Allocations

## CALCULATION OF 2021/22 COUNCIL TAX BASE

| 2020/21 |  | Property Category | 2021/22 |  | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Number } \\ & \text { of } \\ & \text { Properties } \end{aligned}$ | \% |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Number } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { Properties } \end{gathered}$ | \% |  |
| 74,729.00 | 65.9\% | Not entitled to Discounts | 75,555.00 | 65.6\% |  |
| 36,690.00 | 32.3\% | Entitled to 25\% Discount | 37,675.00 | 32.7\% |  |
| 185.00 | 0.2\% | Entitled to 50\% Discount | 194.00 | 0.2\% |  |
| 311.00 | 0.3\% | Entitled to 100\% Discount | 293.00 | 0.3\% |  |
| 111,915.00 | 98.7\% |  | 113,717.00 | 98.7\% |  |
| 1,519.00 | 1.3\% | Exemptions/demolished | 1,543.00 | 1.3\% |  |
| 113,434.00 | 100.0\% | Total Properties | 115,260.00 | 100.0\% | 1 |
| No of Properties as Band D Equivalents |  |  | No of Properties as Band D Equivalents |  |  |
| 95,389.43 |  | Total above as Band D Equivalents | 97,074.39 |  | 2 |
| 1,410.00 |  | Provision for Valuation Change | 1,451.50 |  | 3 |
| $(1,161.58)$ |  | Provision for Non Collection | $(2,561.70)$ |  | 4 |
| 95,637.85 |  | Total Band D equivalent properties | 95,964.19 |  |  |
| (8,947.90) |  | Impact of Council Tax Reductions | $(9,750.44)$ |  |  |
| 86,689.95 |  |  | 86,213.75 |  |  |

## Notes:

1 Numbers of properties are as at 09 September 2019 and 14 September 2020 respectively.
2 Tax Base advised to DCLG per CTB1 return. [Band D equivalents of properties at 09 September 2019 and 14 September 2020, adjusted for discounts as at 7 October 2019 and 5 October 2020 respectively].
3 The provision for valuation change is for the period from October 2020 to 31 March 2022.
4 The provision for non collection is assumed at $2.60 \%$ for $2021 / 22$
MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL TAX BASE－2021／22－LOCAL TAX BASES（INCLUDING DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS）－PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

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| LOCAL AREAS | BAND | BAND | BAND | BAND | BAND | BAND | BAND | BAND | TOTAL |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{G}$ | $\mathbf{H}$ | PROPERTIES |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

2021/22 Parish and Town Council Funding Allocations


## Cabinet report

## 15 December 2020

## General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme Forecast Outturn Report for Quarter 2

Name of Cabinet Member

Councillor Rob Middleton

Cabinet member for Resources

Report sponsor

Report author
Steve Richardson
Director for Finance and Resources

Anna Rulton

Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer) Anna.Rulton@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk 01908252482

| Exempt / confidential / not <br> for publication | No |
| :--- | :--- |
| Council Plan reference | $\mathbf{1}$ - "A Balanced Budget" |
| Wards affected | All wards |

## Executive Summary

This report sets out the 2020/21 Quarter (QTR) 2 forecast outturn for the General Fund (GFRA); Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG); Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme and Tariff Programme; based upon income and expenditure as at 30 September 2020.

The financial impact of the pandemic still cannot be fully understood. The level of uncertainty over the wider economic and social impacts and behavioural changes are yet to be felt. The Council has modelled 3 different scenarios to illustrate the scale of the financial impact that the Council could face in 2020/21 and over the medium term. This report is based on the medium impact.

For 2020/21 based on the current level of financial support provided by government these scenarios provide an estimated financial position of between $£ 1.859 \mathrm{~m}$ underspend and $£ 3.441 \mathrm{~m}$ overspend.

Using the Medium Scenario, we are currently forecasting a General Fund underspend of $£ 0.182 \mathrm{~m}$. Whilst there is an underspend of $£ 1.018 \mathrm{~m}$ of non-COVID-19 related income and expenditure, the forecast includes $£ 19.029 \mathrm{~m}$ of additional COVID-19 costs and loss of income, $£ 28.783 \mathrm{~m}$ of additional Government Grant funding and $£ 10.590 \mathrm{~m}$ of estimated loss of income on the Collection Fund.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) forecast outturn is $£ 0.517 \mathrm{~m}$ underspend, which will be offset by an increase in the planned level of Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO).

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is forecasting an improved position with an estimated surplus carry forward $£ 2.564 \mathrm{~m}$ rather than estimated budgeted surplus of £1.937m.

Public Health budget is forecasting an underspend of $£ 0.403 \mathrm{~m}$ which will be transferred to the Public Health reserve.

The Capital Programme is reporting an in year underspend of $£ 16.556 \mathrm{~m}$, of which $£ 19.872 \mathrm{~m}$ is planned to slip to later years, leaving an in year overspend of $£ 3.316 \mathrm{~m}$. The total project cost is currently forecast to be $£ 0.244 \mathrm{~m}$ underspent after funding is brought forward from future years.

The report also includes recommendations to amend the 2020/21 Capital \& Tariff Programmes, details of which are included in Annex's M \& N.

## 1. Decisions to be made

1.1 That the GFRA forecast outturn of $£ 0.182 \mathrm{~m}$ underspend be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex A of this report.
1.2 That GFRA planned savings of $£ 3.768 \mathrm{~m}$ savings will be achieved ( $87 \%$ of budget) be noted, which is set out in Annex B of this report.
1.3 That the forecast outturn on the HRA is break even, after an increase in the transfer to reserves be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex C of this report.
1.4 That the DSG forecast surplus carry forward of $£ 2.564 \mathrm{~m}$ be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex $D$ of this report.
1.5 That the reserves position as detailed in Annex E are noted.
1.6 That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2020/21 capital programme, as detailed in Annex $\mathbf{N}$ be approved.
1.7 That the forecast outturn on the Capital Programme of $£ 0.244 \mathrm{~m}$ underspend for the total project of which $£ 3.316$ m overspend is in 2020/21 as detailed in Annex F of this report be noted.
1.8 That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2020/21 Tariff programme, as detailed in Annex M be approved.
1.9 That the current position of the 2020/21 tariff programme as detailed in Annex $\mathbf{G}$ be noted.
1.10 That the debt position of the Council at the end of quarter 2 is detailed in Annex $\mathbf{H}$ are noted.
1.11 That the Treasury Management report as detailed in Annex I are noted.
1.12 That the virements to the original budget as detailed in Annex J are noted.
1.13 That the current position on the Collection Fund as detailed in Annex K are noted.
1.14 That the procurement waiver decisions as detailed in Annex L are noted.
2. Why is the decision needed?
2.1 To ensure that the Council delivers a balanced budget in 2020/21 in line with the Council Plan.

Key Issues
General Fund Revenue Account (GFRA)
2.2 The year to date variation at the end of period 6 showed an overspend of $£ 9.144 \mathrm{~m}$ of which $£ 14.595 \mathrm{~m}$ relates to the impact of COVID-19. This is offset by $£ 18.342 \mathrm{~m}$ grant income to date.
2.3 General Fund Revenue Account (GFRA) - is currently forecasting an underspend of $£ 0.182 \mathrm{~m}$ ( $£ 0.836 \mathrm{~m}$ COVID-19 overspend offset by $£ 1.018 \mathrm{~m}$ underspend on non-COVID-19 impacted services).
2.4 The Impact of COVID-19 has meant additional spending to react to the Pandemic, loss of income to the Council for services being shut or lower demand and lower collection rates of both Council Tax and Business rates leaving a huge impact on the Collection Fund. This has been offset by support from the Government by the income support scheme, which allows the Council to recover up to $70 \%$ of fees and charges income losses, forecast to be $£ 8.471 \mathrm{~m}$, and $£ 20.312 \mathrm{~m}$ General Fund Government Support.
2.5 A number of other grants have been provided by the Government to support the impact of COVID-19 on the Council. These are detailed in Annex A.
2.6 Whilst we are immediately seeing the impact of loss of income and additional expenditure on some of our service, we have not yet seen the impact on demand for other services within the Council, in particular Social Care.
2.7 The reported expenditure and forecasts do not include provision for the estimated 2020/21 costs of the fire safety issues at the tower blocks, Mellish Court and The Gables. These are currently estimated to be for the General Fund additional Temporary Accommodation costs of $£ 0.104 \mathrm{~m}$, and for the Housing Revenue Account additional management \& maintenance costs of $£ 2.018 \mathrm{~m}$. The estimated costs for 2021/22 will be provided for within the draft revenue budget proposals.
2.8 The GFRA forecast outturn variance, scenario assumptions and management actions set out at Annex A of this report.
2.9 The key material Service COVID-19 cost and income losses are:
a) Income loss from car parking due to demand is currently forecasting a $£ 9.3 \mathrm{~m}$ pressure. The car parking pressure could be higher if usage reduces and lockdown is prolonged.
b) Adult Services is forecasting a significant pressure in excess of $£ 3.863 \mathrm{~m}$ due to COVID-19.
c) The pressure is due to a combination of increased spend of $£ 1.229 \mathrm{~m}$ on Supported Living to provide 1:1 care in place of Day Services; provision of direct financial support to Care Homes of $£ 1.007 \mathrm{~m}$ to cover additional staff and PPE costs; Hotel and Accommodation costs of $£ 0.669 \mathrm{~m}$ for Rough Sleepers and the balance is made up of a loss of Income on Day Care.
d) As a result of the pandemic and closure during lockdown impacting on their income stream, a provision has been made for income due from the Casino not being received.
e) Planning income is currently forecasting a pressure of $£ 1.047 \mathrm{~m}$ due to the impact of COVID-19.
f) A leisure contract income has been impacted by covid and the council is having to incur additional one-off costs of $£ 0.140 \mathrm{~m}$ to support the contract for 6 months.
g) The Council has also seen an additional cost from waste tonnage and contamination of $£ 0.759 \mathrm{~m}$.
2.10 The Council is reporting an improvement of $£ 1.171 \mathrm{~m}$ since period 3 of non-COVID-19 related forecasts. The Key GFRA Variances since P3 are:

Level 1 - Very High Impact (>£1.000m)
Adult Services Direct Payments (DP), $£ 1.014 m$ - reduction in use of DP as a means of providing care support. The service has found in recent years that DPs are not appropriate or practical, particularly for Frail Elderly. The reduction in use has not been matched by an increase in costs of greater Homecare, Day Care etc.

Level 2 - High Impact ( $>£ 0.500 \mathrm{~m}-£ 1.000 \mathrm{~m}$ )
Staff, underlying underspend of $£ 0.630 \mathrm{~m}$ on Assessment, Review, Reablement, Mental Health, Sheltered and Day Services. This is due to a combination of disruption to the recruitment caused by COVID-19 and availability of the right calibre.

Level 3 - Medium Impact (>£0.100m - £0.500m)
a) Children's Special Guardianship Order placements is forecasting a potential $£ 0.500 \mathrm{~m}$ cost as a result of an Ombudsman legal challenge which has resulted in a backdated pay claim to carers relating to May 2018 to March 2020.
b) Home to school transport is forecasting an underspend of $£ 0.300 \mathrm{~m}$ as a result of reduced demand in the summer term, government grant funding, re-routing of journeys from September and social distancing measures.
c) The costs of residual waste have increased during the pandemic as more of us work from home and so generate more waste that goes to the Residual Waste Treatment Facility (RWTF). However, this increase was evident before March 2020 to a degree and meant that the level of tonnage took the council over the zero-gate fee arrangement with the operator. Coupled with this was a change in legislation regarding energy certificates called Levy Exemption Certificates (LEC's) that was central government funding and formed part of the RTWF operator's income. This funding has since ceased, and the council is obliged to fund the operator accordingly. The result is that pre 2020/21 costs are $£ 0.270 \mathrm{~m}$ above that accrued in previous years accounts and $£ 0.187 \mathrm{~m}$ this year. This is an on-going issue which has been included as a demand in the 2021/22 budget setting process.
d) There has been a recent DD report regarding a renewed approach to funding concessionary travel. COVID- 19 has highlighted a position that already existed in that fixed funding contracts with a major bus operator was not flexible enough to reflect reduced patronage over the last couple of years. A decision was made recently to fund bus operators at $80 \%$ of previous costs from October 2020 which will result in a saving in 20/21 of $£ 0.496 \mathrm{~m}$ and will increase further in 2021/22.

## Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

2.11 The HRA is reporting a projected underspend which will be offset by an increase contribution to Capital, details of which are found in Annex C, Table 1.
2.12 All key forecast variances are set out in Annex C, Table 2. This includes details of the projected financial impact, action being taken by the responsible Head of Service, timelines and the anticipated outcome.
2.13 Key HRA Variances movements since P3

Level 1 - Very High Impact (>£1.000m)
( $£ 1.164 \mathrm{~m}$ ) Following the review of the non-essential budgets and working closely with budget managers, a total of ( $£ 0.479 \mathrm{~m}$ ) has been identified, with further ( $£ 0.696 \mathrm{~m}$ ) of vacancy savings, post pay awards and agreed pro-rata in year budgets re-allocation for recruitment, approved by CLT. These savings have resulted in additional Revenue Contribution to Capital, offset by COVID-19 and Non-COVID-19 impact in other service areas.

Level 2 - High Impact (>£0.500m - £1.000m)
The key issue in the HRA is the impact of COVID-19 on rent income. Though the impact is slow to materialise because of delays in Universal Credit payments, the current forecast is for an increase of $£ 0.813 \mathrm{~m}$ in provisions for arrears and bad debts.

Level 3 - Medium Impact ( $>£ 0.100 \mathrm{~m}-£ 0.500 \mathrm{~m}$ )
None.
Public Health
2.14 Public Health is forecasting a contribution to reserves of $£ 0.403 \mathrm{~m}$ (overall there is a net nil variance after use of reserves as the funding is ring-fenced). The inyear underspend is a result of vacancies across Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council in a Shared Service operating model and some underspends against contracts (including Substance Misuse and Smoking services) due to activity being lower than anticipated.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
2.15 When the budget was set, it was anticipated that there would be a surplus carry forward of $£ 2.636 \mathrm{~m}$ from $2019 / 20$, however the actual carry forward was a surplus of $£ 2.185 \mathrm{~m}$. The $2020 / 21$ budget was set with a budgeted surplus carry forward of $£ 1.936 \mathrm{~m}$, however the forecast carry forward is expected to be $£ 2.564 \mathrm{~m}$. The reduced carry forward from 2019/20 is partially offset with an inyear underspend on the schools and high needs blocks. Further information can be found in Annex D.
2.16 The funding blocks within the DSG are now ring-fenced (with effect from 2018/19) and all key forecast variances are set out in Annex D to this report.
2.17 The main areas of risk is in high needs where there have been increases in the number of children requiring support at increasing levels of complexity. High needs funding remains a national issue and although we currently have a high needs surplus, this is one off and the future funding increases remain uncertain on the DSG and have not up until now, kept up with demand. The early years block is very volatile and remains uncertain in terms of the level of take up due to the impact of COVID-19. There is a low level of contingency in the block in which to deal with the pressures should they arise.

Delivery of Savings
2.18 Savings of $£ 3.696$ m were approved for implementation in $2020 / 21$ and $£ 0.631 \mathrm{~m}$ savings carried forward from 2019/20, a total of $£ 3.518 \mathrm{~m}$ ( $81 \%$ ) are forecast to be delivered in year, $£ 0.250 \mathrm{~m}$ (6\%) saving brought forward from future years and $£ 0.809 \mathrm{~m}(13 \%)$ will either not be delivered until next year or are undeliverable. Where the saving cannot be delivered or not the full amount needs to be considered in the 2021/22 budget.
2.19 A full schedule of all delayed and non-deliverable budget reductions and income proposals is attached at Annex $\mathbf{B}$ to this report and sets out the detailed position on each of the individual proposals.

## Collection Fund

2.20 The Collection Fund includes all income generated from council tax and business rates that is due in the year, including arrears, from council taxpayers and ratepayers.
2.21 It is currently forecast that the Collection Fund for both Council tax and business rates will have an in- year deficit for 2020/21 due to the impact of COVID-19. This deficit has been fully funded in 2020/21.
2.22 Regulations have been amended to allow this deficit to be spread over three years rather than having to be paid back fully in the following year.
2.23 The Current Position of the Collection Fund is reported in Annex K.

## Reserves

2.24 The main reasons the Council holds reserves are to:

- manage known financial risks;
- hold funding as one-off contributions to expenditure, allowing ongoing revenue budget reductions;
- manage timing differences between the receipt of funding and actual spend; and
- hold ring-fenced funds such as specific grants, trusts, schools or the HRA.
2.25 Reserves can only be used once, so should not be used to fund recurring planned spend, in particular they should not be used to balance the budget; this is one of our key financial principles. Reserves are monitored during the year and reviewed at year end and when setting the budget to determine whether any need to be replenished.
2.26 The reserves include uncommitted balance of $£ 4.157 \mathrm{~m}$ which has been earmarked to offset the impact of COVID-19 and in addition a further $£ 3.5 \mathrm{~m}$ of uncommitted Social Care Grant. This funding is one-off and should be viewed as a backstop option considering the potential risks for 2021/22. These funds have been moved into a separate 'COVID-19'reserve to help support the Councils budget position.
2.27 The Council also has a working balance of $£ 22.9 \mathrm{~m}$. This is slightly above the minimum recommended level. In the current situation it may be necessary to temporarily use some of this funding to help manage the future budget challenges. However, in order to ensure that the Council can set a legally robust budget any use of this would need to be accompanied with a clear plan on how this balance would be restored in the future.
2.28 Annex E shows the reserves balances based on actual spending and contributions made as part of the MTFP and new in year movements approved by the Chief Finance Officer in line with the Council's Constitution.

Revisions to the Capital Programme
2.29 There are a number of schemes that were not included in the original 2020/21 capital programme but have now completed the officer review process. Cabinet approval for resource allocation and spend approval is now sought to include new capital projects (summarised in Annex N) in the 2020/21 capital programme.
2.30 Table 1 summarises the changes on the capital programme.

Table 1 - Summary of the changes to the 2020/21 Capital Programme

|  | Resource Allocation 20/21 | Spend Approval 20/21 | Total <br> Resource <br> Allocation | Total Spend Approval |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| 2020/21 Capital Programme as agreed 1 September 2020 Cabinet | 130.685 | 130.685 | 358.288 | 180.103 |
| New Projects | 16.117 | 16.117 | 16.117 | 16.117 |
| Amendments to Existing Project agreed by DD 20 Oct 2020 | (0.113) | (0.113) | 0.462 | 0.462 |
| Amendments to Existing Project | 10.454 | 10.454 | 81.346 | 81.346 |
| Total | 157.143 | 157.143 | 456.213 | 278.028 |

2.31 The new schemes submitted for inclusion in the 2020/21 capital programme are:
a) $\mathbf{1}$ Bed Acquisitions $£ 4.539 \mathrm{~m}$ - The Council has supported over 150 vulnerable people housed in hotels and other forms of emergency accommodation since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has stated our attention must now shift to ensure that individuals do not return to the streets following this initial period of emergency accommodation. The Next Steps Accommodation Programme supported by The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), has made available the financial resources needed to support local authorities to do this work. As part of the bid we have committed to purchase 30x 1 bed/bedsit properties for move on accommodation.
b) Granby Court and Everglade House $\mathbf{£ 0 . 6 2 1 m}$-The Green Homes Grant has been awarded for $£ 0.414 \mathrm{~m}$ to assist with the delivery of energy efficiency improvements within the Borough. The grant, together with additional funding from the HRA Community Heating Project $£ 0.207 \mathrm{~m}$, will fund the energy efficiencies to 268 dwellings/units at Granby Court and Everglade House including the provision of a low carbon heating system, renewable energy sources, fabric insulation, energy efficient lighting and building management systems.
c) Fairfields Area $\mathbf{1 1}$ Allotment Site $\mathbf{£ 0 . 2 4 3 m}$ - Tariff funding has been allocated to deliver the new Allotments at Fairfields in the Western Expansion Area (WEA) to lay out the Allotment areas as agreed with Fairfields Parish Council. There is an identified need for new facilities of sufficient scale to serve the needs of the expanding population and this includes the requirement for new Allotments.
d) Tower Block Improvement Project (Mellish Court \& The Gables) £2.891m. The buildings do not meet current fire safety standards, therefore funding is required to to ensure both Mellish Court and The Gables are safe whilst the buildings are emptied to facilitate refurbishment or demolition \& new build programme is undertaken. This will be funded from within the HRA programme.
e) Fishermead - Modular $£ \mathbf{6 . 5 3 5}$ m. Temporary accommodation for $\mathbf{7 0}$ homes for homeless households under a licence. The project is intended to reduce the number of homeless people in the borough and reduce the strain in temporary accommodation on the MKC general fund. This will be funded from within the HRA programme.
f) The Council has received $£ 1 \mathrm{~m}$ advanced funding obtained from MHCLG in relation to the Bletchley Towns Deal to accelerate key improvement projects within the area. This funding will be used for the following projects:
$>$ Bletchley Fire Station Site $\mathbf{£ 0 . 2 0 0 m}$ - To prepare the formal Bletchley Fire Stations Site for repurposing/redevelopment
> Bletchley Blue Lagoon Redway links $£ \mathbf{£ 6 7 1 m}$ - Construction of three new Redway links to improve connectivity within Bletchley and to the Blue Lagoon site.
g) VMWare Enterprise agreement $\mathbf{£} \mathbf{0} \mathbf{. 4 1 7 m}$. VMWare desktop virtualisation software is used by the Council to provision Windows desktops to the majority (1700) of council employees and delivers the remote working solution that is supporting staff during the pandemic. The Enterprise License is required to maintain the on premises software assurance and upgrade / support rights during the 2 years of the new agreement. This will be funded by single capital pot grant.
2.32 Approval is sought for the following amendments to resource allocation and spend approval:
a) Hanslope Primary School and associated Nursery 1FE Expansion - agreed by DD 20 October $2020 £ 0.462 \mathrm{~m}$ - Following the Pre-Construction Service Agreement (PCSA) stage, there is an increase in cost to the construction contract from the original award of $£ 3.2 \mathrm{~m}$ to the budget sum of $£ 3.69 \mathrm{~m}$. A additional contribution of $£ 0.462 \mathrm{~m}$, funded by basic need allocation, is sought to deliver this additional contract cost and deliver the project, together with $£ 0.133 \mathrm{~m}$ being rephased into later years.
b) Fullers Slade Regeneration $£ \mathbf{£ 0 . 3 9 9 m}$ - additional resource allocation and spend approval of $£ 0.399 \mathrm{~m}$ in 2020/21 has been requested to cover extra costs needed for Design Team fees, additional surveys, and contingency. This project is funded from a HRA revenue contribution.
c) $\mathbf{5}$ Year Housing Capital Investment Programme $\mathbf{£ 1 . 7 7 5 m}$ - The purpose of this project is to deliver essential investment works to MKC housing stock. Following an original cautious approach to spend approval request in the July DD due to assumptions around COVID 19 restrictions. Projects including window and fencing replacements have been able to be delivered ahead of initial prudent estimates of delivery, resulting in current allocation being expended. Recourse capacity and availability allows us to increase this year's programme and avoids over demand in future years. This project is funded within existing funding within the 5 year capital programme by revising the allocations for each year.
d) Tattenhoe Park Community Wellness Hub $\mathbf{£ 0 . 1 4 6 m}$ - additional resource allocation and spend approval request of $£ 0.146 \mathrm{~m}$ is requested to cover the additional costs of the build. This project is funded from S106 $£ 0.122 \mathrm{~m}$ and an underspend on Emerson Valley Sports Pavilion Remedial works $£ 0.024 \mathrm{~m}$.
e) Purchase of Properties (Council Dwellings). The capital programme for 2020/21 was reviewed in July DD to access the likelihood of delivery of projects in year taking into account the impact of COVID-19, and the resource allocation for this project was reduced in year and pushed back to 2021/22. However, spend has resumed following lockdown and we are anticipating in meeting more than the additional target in year, therefore $£ 5.5 \mathrm{~m}$ of 2021/22 resource allocation will be brought forward into 2020/21.
f) Housing Infrastructure Fund (Highways) $\mathbf{£ 8 8 . 8 2 4 m}$ A DD was approved on the 28 July to accept $£ 94.6 \mathrm{~m}$ of grant funding for Highways and Social Infrastructure to support Housing Delivery East of the M1. The grant will fund new highway infrastructure, together with a new primary school and community health hub. Approval is sought to add $£ 88.824 \mathrm{~m}$, financed by Government grant, to the capital programme to fund the resources required to progress the highway infrastructure that will be delivered as part of the development.
2.33 Spend approval requests for projects within the 2020/21 capital programme, are summarised in Annex N .

## 2020/21 Capital Monitoring

2.34 Table 2 shows a summary of the forecast position for the 2020/21 capital programme compared to budget (resource allocation). The current position shows an underspend of $£ 16.556 \mathrm{~m}$; however after forecast slippage of $£ 19.872 \mathrm{~m}$, this will result in an overspend of $£ 3.316 \mathrm{~m}$ in year. Funding already allocated in future years will be used to offset this overspend.
2.35 Detailed individual project forecast, including total project positions are detailed in Annex F.
2.36 Table 2: Capital Programme - 2020/21 Forecast at $\mathbf{3 0}$ September 2020

| Capital Summary | Forecast to Year End |  |  | Forecast after Slippage |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2020/21 } \\ \text { Project } \\ \text { Budget } \end{gathered}$ | 2020/21 <br> Forecast Outturn | In year forecast Variation | Project <br> Slippage to later Years | 2020/21 Forecast Under/Overspend |
| Service | fm's | fm's | £m's | fm's | £m's |
| Adult Social Care | 0.648 | 0.648 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Children Services | 32.759 | 34.213 | 1.454 | 1.472 | 2.927 |
| Housing and Regeneration - HRA | 78.141 | 64.905 | (13.236) | 13.437 | 0.201 |
| Housing and Regeneration - GF | 1.124 | 1.110 | (0.014) | 0.014 | 0.000 |
| Corporate Core | 5.513 | 4.994 | (0.519) | 0.519 | 0.000 |
| Policy, Insight \& Comms | 0.063 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Growth, Economy and Culture | 7.445 | 5.843 | (1.603) | 1.630 | 0.027 |
| Environment and Property | 30.193 | 27.969 | (2.224) | 2.384 | 0.161 |
| Resources | 1.258 | 0.842 | (0.415) | 0.415 | 0.000 |


| Capital Programme <br> Requirements | $\mathbf{1 5 7 . 1 4 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 0 . 5 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 6 . 5 5 6 )}$ | 19.872 | 3.316 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Capital Financing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Receipts | $(13.880)$ | $(13.880)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Major Repairs <br> Reserve | $(27.041)$ | $(27.041)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Government Grants | $(44.879)$ | $(44.879)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Prudential Borrowing | $(4.206)$ | $(4.206)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Developer <br> Contribution | $(15.749)$ | $(15.749)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Third Party <br> Contributions | $(4.954)$ | $(4.954)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Parking Income | $(0.050)$ | $(0.050)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Revenue <br> Contributions | $(40.798)$ | $(40.798)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ |
| New Homes Bonus | $(5.586)$ | $\mathbf{( 5 . 5 8 6 )}$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ |
| Total Capital <br> Financing | $\mathbf{( 1 5 7 . 1 4 3 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 5 7 . 1 4 3 )}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | 0.0 |
| Net Surplus / Deficit | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 6 . 5 5 6 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 6 . 5 5 6 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 . 8 7 2}$ |  |

### 2.37 Key Project Variances

Glebe Meadows Primary \& Secondary School $£ 2.903 \mathrm{~m}$ - Detailed design work to develop cost plan continues (target completion end Dec 21). Updated cashflow from Contractor has indicated an early ordering of materials to enable starting on site in early Jan instead of early Feb 21 to assist programme. This has resulted in change to spend profile. The project is forecast to meet the total resource allocation for this project.
2.38 2020/21 Key Slippage to later Years
a) HRA New Build Housing programme $£ 12.742 \mathrm{~m}$ forecast slippage to $2021 / 22$ due to changes to the procurement process, delays in planning permission process and revisions to the original programme specification. Forecast completion dates for the projects have now been identified as March 22.
b) Whitehouse Community Facility $£ 1.300 \mathrm{~m}$ forecast slippage to $2021 / 22$. The existing contractor of school unable to delivery project within current resources. A review of procurement options to deliver project is required. The Project is expected to complete March 2022.
c) Fairfield Leisure and Community Facilities $£ 0.200 \mathrm{~m}$ forecast slippage to 2021/22. Works to construct the Fairfields Sports Hub access road, car parking and associated footpaths/fencing plan to start work Oct 2020, completion dependant on changing room work completion. The car park is expected to slip into 2021/22 with Current budget assumes completion of the whole project in year.
d) Passenger Transport $£ 0.596 \mathrm{~m}$ forecast slippage to 2021/22. Programme delayed owing to Highways resource issues that are being resolved. Forecast completion date remains at the March 2022.
e) V6 Grid Road Corridor Improvement Schemes $£ 0.500 \mathrm{~m}$ forecast slippage to 2021/22. Delays on detailed design due to Utilities COVID-19 restrictions. The forecast completion date remains at the March 2022.
f) Special Education Needs additional place Programme $£ 0.810 \mathrm{~m}$ due to delay in the works, forecast completion date remains at the March 2022.

Revisions to the Tariff Programme
2.39 Cabinet approval for resource allocation and spend approval is sought to include new Tariff projects (summarised in Annex M) in the 2020/21 Tariff Programme.

Table 3 - Summary of the changes to the Tariff Programme

|  | Resource <br> Allocation | Spend <br> Approval |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\mathbf{f m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ |
| 2020/21 Tariff Programme as <br> agreed September 2020 <br> Cabinet | $\mathbf{3 8 . 2 0 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 . 2 0 3}$ |
| Cash Investments | 0.170 | 0.170 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3 8 . 3 7 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 . 3 7 3}$ |

2.40 The significant amendments to the 2020/21 Tariff programme are:

Wavendon Playing Fields - request for an additional $0.945 \mathrm{~m}, £ 0.170 \mathrm{~m}$ in 2020/21. The majority of the works required to lay out and service the playing fields at Wavendon will be carried out early in the 2021/22 financial year in order to have the pitches ready for use at the beginning of the 2022/23 playing season when the Pavilion building will open. However significant preliminary ecology works have to be carried out before groundworks can commence on the site and this has required the project to be brought forward into this years Capital Programme in order to avoid subsequent delay to next years delivery of the pitches and Pavilion.
2.41 Table 4 shows a summary of the forecast outturn for the Tariff programme compared to budget for 2020/21. The current position shows an underspend of $£ 6.715 \mathrm{~m}$; however after forecast slippage of $£ 6.715 \mathrm{~m}$, this becomes a nil variance.
2.42 Detailed individual project forecast, including total project positions are detailed in Annex G.

Table 4 - Tariff Monitoring

| Tariff Summary | Forecast to Year End |  |  | Forecast after Slippage |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 2020 / 21 \\ \text { Project } \\ \text { Budget } \end{gathered}$ | 2020/21 <br> Forecast Outturn | In year forecast Variation | Project Slippage to later Years | 2020/21 <br> Forecast Under/Over spend |
| Service | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's |
| Roads and Highways | 1.330 | 0.980 | (0.350) | 0.350 | 0.000 |
| Public Transport | 0.598 | 0.598 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Schools | 8.095 | 8.095 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Leisure and Culture | 8.578 | 7.213 | (1.365) | 1.365 | 0.000 |
| Social Care and Health | 5.000 | 0.000 | (5.000) | 5.000 | 0.000 |
| Other Services | 2.327 | 2.327 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Costs of Running | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Works in Kind | 12.310 | 12.310 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Tariff Programme | 38.373 | 31.658 | (6.715) | 6.715 | 0.000 |
| Tariff Financing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tariff Receipts | (38.373) | (38.373) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total Tariff Financing | (38.373) | (38.373) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Net Surplus / Deficit | 0.000 | (6.715) | (6.715) | 6.715 | 0.000 |

2.43 2020/21 Key Slippage to later Years
a) MKUH Pathway Unit $£ 5.000 \mathrm{~m}$ - The Hospital Trust have now (October) received planning permission for the Pathway Unit and are mobilising to deliver this new facility once the ambulance service have moved fully to the new Blue Light Hub. However the majority of the build will now take place in the next financial year and hence the requirement for the Council's funding will fall into 2021/22.
b) Whitehouse Community Meeting Place $£ 1.365 \mathrm{~m}$. Project delayed due to the existing contractor of school and community centre unable to deliver project within current resources. A review of procurement options to deliver project is required. The Project is expected to complete in 2021/22.

Debt Collection and Performance
2.44 Annex H details the Council's overall debt position and collection performance in quarter.

Treasury
2.45 Annex I reports the current treasury management forecast.

## Virements

2.46 Financial procedure rules require virements between services to be reported and agreed, Annex J details the virements processed in the quarter.

## Procurement Waivers

2.47 Financial procedure rules require all variations to the ordering system to be approved by the Director of Finance and Resources. A summary of the procurement waivers are in Annex L.

## 3. Implications of the decision

| Y | Capital | Y | Revenue | N | Accommodation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| N | IT | Y | Medium Term Plan | Y | Asset Management |

## a) Financial implications

Capital implications are fully considered throughout the report. Revenue implications as a result of capital schemes are built into the Council's debt financing and other revenue budgets as appropriate through the Medium-Term Planning process. Where significant risks are known they are highlighted in this report.

Any overspend on the General Fund position will impact on the General Fund working balance. If amounts go below the minimum working balance actions will need to be taken to increase the minimum level of reserves and may result in the need for changes to spending plans for future years.

The Finance team are working with Directors to ensure that appropriate plans are put in place and implemented to address non-delivery of budgets from 2019/20 to ensure these do not reoccur in 2020/21. We will be reporting on these at future Cabinet meetings.

## b) Legal implications

Legal implications may arise in relation to specific capital schemes or revenue projects. In particular a capital scheme or revenue project may be needed to meet a specific legal requirement. These implications are addressed in the individual project appraisals. There are no significant legal implications arising as a result of this report.
c) Other implications

- Policy: The recommendations of this report are consistent with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- Carbon and Energy Management: All capital schemes consider Carbon and Energy Management implications at the capital appraisal stage before they are added to the capital programme. All new buildings included within the report for inclusion in the capital programme will be built to achieve EPC rating A.


## List of Annexes

| Annex A | - | GFRA Variances |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Annex B | - | Savings Tracker |
| Annex C | - | HRA Variances |
| Annex D | - | DSG Variances |
| Annex E | - | Reserves Position |
| Annex F | - | Capital Outturn |
| Annex G | - | Tariff Monitoring |
| Annex H | - | Debt Position |
| Annex I | - | Treasury |
| Annex J | - | Virements |
| Annex K | - | Collection Fund |
| Annex L | - | Procurement Waivers |
| Annex M | - | Tariff Programme Additions |
| Annex N | - | Capital Programme Additions |


| Movement in period |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Period 3 <br> Non Covid | Movement since P3 |
| fm's |  |
| (0.701) | (1.763) |
| (0.000) | 0.000 |
| 0.471 | (0.948) |
| (0.107) | 0.440 |
| (0.007) | 0.000 |
| (0.020) | 0.012 |
| (0.524) | 0.458 |
| 0.405 | 0.645 |
| 0.148 | (0.021) |
| 0.000 | (0.000) |
| 0.053 | 0.006 |
| 0.435 | 0.000 |
| 0.153 | (1.171) |
| 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 0.153 | (1.171) |
|  |  |
| 0.000 | (0.000) |
| 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 0.000 | (0.000) |
| 0.000 | (0.000) |
| 0.153 | (1.171) |

## Table 1 - GF High Level Revenue Summary

| General Fund High Level | Year to Date |  |  |  | Forecast Position |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2020/21 } \\ \text { Budget to } \\ \text { Date } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 2020/21 <br> Actuals to Date | 2020/21 <br> YTD Variance | Covid 19 Spend/incom e loss to date | 2020/21 <br> Full Year Budget | Medium <br> Scenario <br> Forecast | Revised <br> Variance | Forecast Position Covid | Forecast position -Non-COVID |
| Service | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's | fm's |
| Adult Social Care | 39.425 | 40.510 | 1.086 | 2.378 | 71.337 | 72.737 | 1.400 | 3.863 | (2.464) |
| Public Health | 5.527 | 5.527 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 11.650 | 11.650 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Children's Services | 28.095 | 26.915 | (1.181) | (0.079) | 54.513 | 55.086 | 0.573 | 1.050 | (0.477) |
| Policy, Insight \& Communications | (0.293) | 0.299 | 0.592 | 0.785 | 0.932 | 2.088 | 1.157 | 0.824 | 0.333 |
| Strategy and Futures | 0.151 | (0.074) | (0.225) | 0.000 | 0.210 | 0.203 | (0.007) | 0.000 | (0.007) |
| Housing and Regeneration | 0.492 | 0.447 | (0.045) | 0.000 | 0.873 | 0.866 | (0.008) | 0.000 | (0.008) |
| Growth, Economy and Culture | 2.109 | 3.098 | 0.989 | 1.202 | 5.748 | 7.356 | 1.608 | 1.674 | (0.066) |
| Environment and Property | 13.316 | 18.005 | 4.689 | 6.996 | 57.464 | 69.353 | 11.889 | 10.839 | 1.049 |
| Resources - Retained MKC | 0.221 | 0.392 | 0.170 | 0.339 | (1.586) | (0.706) | 0.880 | 0.753 | 0.127 |
| Resources - LGSS | (0.194) | (0.194) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 6.056 | 6.056 | (0.000) | 0.000 | (0.000) |
| Law \& Governance | 0.275 | 0.345 | 0.069 | (0.027) | 1.989 | 2.074 | 0.084 | 0.026 | 0.058 |
| Debt financing, corporate codes | 16.774 | 19.774 | 3.000 | 3.000 | (2.562) | (2.127) | 0.435 | (0.000) | 0.435 |
| Net Cost of Services | 105.898 | 115.042 | 9.144 | 14.595 | 206.623 | 224.634 | 18.011 | 19.029 | (1.018) |
| Covid Funding | 0.000 | (18.342) | (18.342) | (18.342) | 0.000 | (28.783) | (28.783) | (28.783) | 0.000 |
| General Fund Requirement | 105.898 | 96.700 | (9.198) | (3.747) | 206.623 | 195.851 | (10.772) | (9.754) | (1.018) |
| Financing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Council Tax | (129.205) | (129.205) | (0.000) | 0.000 | (129.205) | (129.205) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Loss of Funding | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 10.590 | 10.590 | 10.590 | 0.000 |
| New Homes Bonus | (3.000) | (3.000) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (6.000) | (6.000) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| NNDR | (27.132) | (27.132) | (0.000) | 0.000 | (54.264) | (54.264) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| RSG | (5.592) | (5.592) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (5.592) | (5.592) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Public Health | (5.781) | (5.781) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (11.562) | (11.562) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total Financing | (170.710) | (170.710) | (0.000) | 0.000 | (206.623) | (196.033) | 10.590 | 10.590 | 0.000 |
| Net Surplus / Deficit | (64.812) | (74.010) | (9.198) | (3.747) | 0.000 | (0.182) | (0.182) | 0.836 | (1.018) |

Introduction
The Council are currently forecasting a General Fund underspend of $£ 0.182 \mathrm{~m}$. Whilst there is an underspend of $£ 1.018 \mathrm{~m}$ of non-COVID-19 related income and expenditure, the forecast includes $£ 19.029 \mathrm{~m}$ of additional COVID-19 costs and loss of income, $£ 28.783 \mathrm{~m}$ of additional Government funding and $£ 10.590 \mathrm{~m}$ of estimated loss of income on the Collection Fund.
As the year progresses, expenditure on COVID-19 is becoming intrinsically linked to service expenditure, therefore for that reason the forecast explanation for the year includes both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 pressures and savings.
The level of uncertainty over the wider economic and social impacts and behavioural changes are yet to be felt. The Council has modelled 3 different scenarios to illustrate the scale of the financial impact that the Council could face in 2020/21 and over the medium term. This report is based on the medium impact. For 2020/21 based on the current level of financial support provided by government these scenarios provide an estimated financial position of between $£ 1.859$ m underspend and $£ 3.441 \mathrm{~m}$ overspend.

## GFRA Forecast Key Variance and Management Actions

Table 2-GF High Level Variations

## The COVID-19 pressures are made up of:

Supported Living care - additional 1:1 cost to cover closure of Day Care, $£ 1.229 \mathrm{~m}$

- Day Care - loss of Continuing Healthcare (CHC) and Client contributions, $£ 0.234 \mathrm{~m}$
- Homeless and Rough Sleepers - hotel and accommodation costs as part of Government strategy to get people off the street £0.669m
The COVID-19 costs mask an underspend on non-COVID-19 forecast of $£ 2.464 \mathrm{~m}$ made up of:
Part of the underspend has been earmarked to cover a shortfall in committed savings in the MTFP in this year and $£ 0.250 \mathrm{~m}$ in 2021/22.
Homelessness Prevention \& Access, $£ 0.790 \mathrm{~m}$ including the Homeless Prevention Fund balance.
 This is due to a combination of disruption to the recruitment caused by COVID-19 and availability of the right calibre.
Small balance of $£ 0.060 \mathrm{~m}$ of underspend across Adult Social Care overheads and running costs which is largely due to disruption due to COVID-19.
For period 6 the service is forecasting a contribution of $£ 0.403 \mathrm{~m}$ to the Public Health reserve, increasing the value from $£ 1.222 \mathrm{~m}$ to $£ 1.625 \mathrm{~m}$. This is after allowing for one off expenditure totalling $£ 0.370 \mathrm{~m}$ to fund projects such as tackling Knife crime and improving health outcomes on regeneration estates. Due to changes in behaviour and reduced access to service during COVID19 , there has continued to be an underspend in Sexual Health service (now totals $£ 0.273 \mathrm{~m}$ ) and the Health Check service (now

> Key Variations:
between committed expenditure and grant income.
The Public Health grant for $2020 / 21$ is $£ 11.642$ m. This includes an increase of $£ 0.544 \mathrm{~m}$ ( $4.7 \%$ increase) that follows successive

| Service Area | Public Health | Responsible Officer | Muriel Scott | Variance $\mathbf{f m}$ | $£ 0.000 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| Service Area |
| :--- |
| Public Health |
| Key Variations: |
| - The Public Health grant for $2020 / 21$ is $£ 11.642 \mathrm{~m}$. This includes an increase of $£ 0.544 \mathrm{~m}$ ( $4.7 \%$ increase) that follows successive |
| cuts of $2.3 \%-2.6 \%$ year-on-year since $2016 / 17$. Part of the increase in grant has been earmarked to fund the existing gap |
| between committed expenditure and grant income. |
| - For period 6 the service is forecasting a contribution of $£ 0.403 \mathrm{~m}$ to the Public Health reserve, increasing the value from $£ 1.222 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| to $£ 1.625 \mathrm{~m}$. This is after allowing for one off expenditure totalling $£ 0.370 \mathrm{~m}$ to fund projects such as tackling Knife crime and |
| improving health outcomes on regeneration estates. Due to changes in behaviour and reduced access to service during COVID- |
| 19, there has continued to be an underspend in Sexual Health service (now totals $£ 0.273 \mathrm{~m}$ ) and the Health Check service (now |

totals $£ 0.185 \mathrm{~m}$ ), since period 5 this has resulted in additional saving of $£ 0.162 \mathrm{~m}$. It is anticipated that demand will remain low
for the remainder of the financial year which may have a negative impact on health.

- Further underspends which have been forecasted are attributable to staffing vacancies across the shared service model. In
addition, there is a forecast underspend of $£ 0.100 \mathrm{~m}$ on the $0-19$ Children’s commissioned contract due to a reduction on new
contract costs (commenced April 2020). There is also a $£ 0.092 \mathrm{~m}$ forecasted underspend in Substance Misuse due to $2019 / 20$ ’s
payment by outcome not being achieved and a low number of Tier 4 rehab placements due to social distancing measures being
enforced. Additionally, there has been a reduced funding allocation from the Casino which has caused a pressure

| Service Are |  |  | Mac | Variance $£ \mathbf{m}$ | £0.573m |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Variations: <br> - Children’s Social Work $£ \mathbf{0 . 3 4 2 m}$ - legal costs for children's services are expected to overspend by $£ 0.210 \mathrm{~m}$ dut of cases and complexity of high cost cases. Families with no recourse to public funds forecast overspend of $£$ families are now being supported. The Family Support Teams have a staffing overspend of $£ 0.099 \mathrm{~m}$ due to cover and employee absence with agency staff. <br> - Corporate Parenting $£ \mathbf{0 . 8 7 2 m}$ - the regional adoption agency budget is forecasting an overspend of $£ 0.158$ m number of children being placed and the cost of inter-agency fees. Remand placements forecast overspend two young people awaiting court trials. The number of LAC has reduced from a peak in December 2019 at 428 2020 to 404 and reducing further in September 2020 to 393 . Whilst the number of LAC remains stable there high cost placements in addition to secure placements being needed. Our care leavers block contract provis is a lack of move on options for these young people given wider housing accommodation pressures - a focus options for this cohort is being undertaken. There has recently been an Ombudsman ruling whereby all spe carers are due a rate revision dating back to May 2018, the cost of this is yet to be quantified but an estimat been included in the forecast, work is being undertaken to finalise the underpayment. <br> The impact of COVID-19 on children's services continues to be difficult to predict at this stage and will need There is a concern that following children returning to school, GP's and accessing other professional services to be an increased demand in referrals which will impact on services and could lead to an increase in the nu after children and increased demand on social work staff teams. |  |  |  |  |  |



| Service Area | Strategy \& Futures | Responsible Officer | Geoff Snelson | Variance $£ \mathbf{m}$ | (£0.007m) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Variations: <br> - Immaterial variance |  |  |  |  |  |
| Service Area | Housing \& Regeneration | Responsible Officer | Michael Kelleher | Variance $£ \mathbf{m}$ | (£0.008m) |
| Key Variations: <br> - Immaterial variance. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Service Area | Growth, Economy \& Culture | Responsible Officer | Tracy Darke | Variance $£ \mathrm{~m}$ | £1.608m |
| Key Variations: <br> - Planning income is under budget by $£ 1.047 \mathrm{~m}$ as a mid-point forecast due to the impact of COVID-19. <br> - A leisure contract income has been impacted by covid and the council is having to incur additional one-off to support the contract for 6 months. |  |  |  |  |  |



| Service Area |  <br> Corporate Items | Responsible Officer | Steve Richardson | Variance $£ \mathbf{m}$ | $\mathbf{£ 0 . 4 3 5 m}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Variations: |  |  |  |  |  |
| - The pay award for $2020 / 21$ is estimated to be $0.25 \%$ higher than budgeted leading to an additional pressure of $£ 0.228 \mathrm{~m}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| - Investment in recovery framework $£ 0.207 \mathrm{~m}$ |  |  |  |  |  |

## Additional Government Funding Allocations - COVID-19

## Funding for General Purposes

The Government has allocated a total of $£ 20.725 \mathrm{~m}$ of funding to offset the impact of COVID-19 on the General Fund budget, together with, support for loss of income on fees and charges, including loss of parking income, and mitigating the impact on our council tax and business rates collection fund, increased expenditure in social care support ,PPE, rough sleeping, increased waste tonnages and so on.

So far, MKC have received $£ 20.725 \mathrm{~m}$ of Local Authority Support Grant in 4 tranches, with the 4 th tranche paid in November. $£ 0.413 \mathrm{~m}$ was allocated in 2019/20 and the remainder in 2020/21. All of the grant has been committed.

In addition the Council is due to receive $£ 8.4 \mathrm{~m}$ for the Local Government Income Compensation Scheme, which allows the Council to recover up to $70 \%$ of fees and charges income losses.

## Funding for Specific Purposes

In addition to the general Government Grant allocation, the council has been managing and accessing various other Government support funds. Table 3 below shows a list of these grants received and current commitment against each one *.

Table 3 - Specific Grant Funding COVID-19

| Grant | Allocation | Commitment |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Test and Trace Service Support Grant | 1.065 | Part allocated, remainder in progress |
| Reopening High Streets Safely Fund | 0.239 | Fully Committed $£ 0.239 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Emergency Active Travel Fund | 0.228 | Fully Committed $£ 0.228 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Food \& Essential Supplies | 0.268 | Fully Committed $£ 0.268 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Home to School Transport | 0.245 | Fully Committed $£ 0.245 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Local Authority Compliance and | 0.135 | Fully Committed $£ 0.135 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Enforcement grant | 2.170 | In progress |
| Contain Outbreak Management Fund | 0.026 | Fully Committed $£ 0.026 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Rough Sleeping Contingency Fund | 0.043 | Fully Committed $£ 0.043 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Wellbeing For Education Funding | 4.417 |  |
| Total |  |  |

## Passported Funding

The Government have also allocated funding which has been passported on to businesses, schools and others within the community. Table 4 below shows a list of these grants received and current commitment against each one.

Table 4 - Passported Funding COVID-19

| Grant | Allocation | Commitment |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Hardship Fund | 2.322 | Fully Committed $£ 2.322 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Business Support Grant | 40.156 | Fully Committed $£ 40.156 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund | 1.256 | Fully Committed $£ 1.256 \mathrm{~m}$ |


| BID Resilience fund | 0.051 | Fully Committed $£ 0.051 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Infection Control Fund - round 1 | 2.012 | Fully Committed $£ 2.012 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Infection Control Fund - round 2 | 2.134 | Fully Committed $£ 2.134 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Bus Services Support Grant | 0.124 | Fully Committed $£ 0.124 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Schools Covid-19 catch up payments | 0.887 | Fully Committed $£ 0.887$ |
| Schools Covid-19 exceptional costs | 0.183 | Fully Committed $£ 0.183 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme | 0.216 | in progress |
| Total | $\mathbf{4 9 . 3 4 3}$ |  |

*Other grant announcements have been made, however they allocation to Milton Keynes has not yet been notified
ANNEX B - BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND INCOME PROPOSALS DELIVERY TRACKER
Savings of $£ 3.696 m$ were approved for implementation in $2020 / 21$ and $£ 0.631 m$ savings carried forward from 2019/20, resulting in a total of target of $£ 4.327 \mathrm{~m}$ to deliver. $£ 3.518 \mathrm{~m}(81 \%)$ of forecast to be delivered in year, $£ 0.250 \mathrm{~m}(6 \%)$ saving brought forward from future year and $£ 0.809 \mathrm{~m}(13 \%)$ will either not be delivered until next year or are undeliverable.
Table 1 - Budget Reductions \& Income Proposals Tracker 2020/21

| Savings Status | Number of <br> Savings Targets | Income/Savings <br> Target | 2020/21 <br> Forecast value to <br> be delivered by YE | Variance |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Achieved | 10 | 1,471 | 1,471 | 0 |
| On-track | 23 | 1,789 | 1,789 | 0 |
| Saving Bfwd | 1 | 0 | 250 | 250 |
| Delayed | 2 | 300 | 167 | $(133)$ |
| Part delivered | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Undeliverable | 9 | 767 | 9,327 | $\mathbf{3 , 7 6 8}$ |

The table on the next page shows the undelivered; part delivered and delayed budget reduction and Income:
Table 2 - Undelivered and Delayed Budget Reductions and Income

| Reference | Proposal | Target | Status | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { 2020/21 } \\ & \text { Forecast } \end{aligned}$ | Variance | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R20-2b | Health \& Social Care Integration <br> A number of services have currently been identified as in scope for integration with health partners however there is yet to be agreement on some of those areas. There are also a number of other risks with regard to the deliverability including; procurement timing differences (contract end dates etc.) and understanding where the share of the saving will be delivered (i.e. does this fall to health or MKC or do we need a legal risk sharing agreement in place to enable this). The initial 2020/21 savings target of $£ 0.5 \mathrm{~m}$ will be mitigated through savings identified in children's (CHC income) and adults (a saving on a contract) . | 0 | Saving Bfwd | (250) | (250) | Saving target has been realigned over the years and changed to different areas within TA / social care. |
| R20-8 | Temporary Accommodation - new actions to reduce average nightly Temporary Accommodation costs <br> Use 3 Conditions Housing Association (3CHA) leased properties, reduce Enhances Private Sector Leases (EPSL) voids average from 14 to 8 units and reduce average repair costs from $£ 2,190$ to $£ 1,600$ pa. | (188) | Undeliverable | (61) | 127 | 3 Conditions Housing Association (3CHA) leased properties scheme cancelled therefore this element of the saving is undeliverable. Some savings delivered through void reductions, included in overall overspend. |
| R20-23 | Increased revenue from room hire at Children and Family Centres as a result of developing a marketing strategy and developing the parenting programme which will be offered to schools, other local authorities, charities and private companies. | (8) | Undeliverable | 0 | 8 | Due to the closure of children's centres during COVID 19 there is currently no opportunity to generate fee and charges income. |
| R20-3 | Libraries: <br> As part of the next stage of achieving efficiencies using technology and working with community organisations and other MKC services. | (35) | Undeliverable | 0 | 35 | Due to the closure of libraries during COVID 19 there is currently no opportunity to generate fee and charges income. |


| R20-21 | Organisational efficiency. Review of existing routine expenditure across the organisation. | (250) | Undeliverable | 0 | 250 | Due to Covid19 this saving is not going to be achieved. The budget will need to be rebased in future years. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { R43 19- } \\ 20 \end{gathered}$ | Full review of the Council's Customer Services offer moving to a comprehensive offer for all Council services, improved use of technology and further efficiency. | (100) | Undeliverable | 0 | 100 | There is an overall Customer Transformation target of $£ 350 \mathrm{k}$ in $20 / 21$, the $£ 250 \mathrm{k}$ showing separately. The current expectation is that the $£ 250 \mathrm{k}$ savings will be made but not this $£ 100 \mathrm{k}$ savings target. A revised appraisal is required of this target in line with the Rapid Service Reviews and Budget Choices Reviews |
| R20-18 | Saxon Court savings (S13 2017/18). Revised savings position following the exit of MKC staff from Saxon Court; running costs of the building could be covered by service charge income from new tenants. The saving has been phased over 2 years to reflect the expectation that Saxon will be sold Summer 2020. | (100) | Undeliverable | 0 | 100 | Saxon Court will be sold in the summer 2021 now and so the saving needs to be rolled forward a year. The existing tenants have also left in 20/21 causing a pressure on the Saxon Court cost centre of around $£ 120$ k. |
| R20-19 | Closure of the Theatre Car Park - Total annual costs of $£ 200 \mathrm{k}$ and annual income of $£ 140 \mathrm{k}$. This is based on current operational costs and doesn't include the fact that the lift is permanently out of order and requires replacement and the barrier system is nearing end of life. Usage of the car park is declining ( $54 \%$ since 2016/17) and there is no obvious prospect of this trend reversing. This closure could also result in a capital receipt or other revenue stream if and when an alternative use is developed. This will be subject to a further business case which is being considered currently. | (31) | Undeliverable | 0 | 31 | The car park is not planned for sale yet until the development of that section of the city progresses so that the best opportunity of the land is made. However, work is now underway to close the car park. Due to it being open part of the year, there have been added costs so this saving will not be made. |
| R20-14 | Digital Transformation \& Customer Services. Programme to centralise the Council's customer services arrangements for more front line services, improving performance, access and supporting digital channels, increase responsiveness of service and reduce failure demand. | (250) | Delayed | (150) | 100 | A detailed plan is yet to be presented to articulate these savings but there are some broad projects being pursued. These are expected to be firmed up in the coming months. |
| R6 19-20 | The Integrated Audit and Fraud Team - Targeted growth of $£ 50 \mathrm{k}$ spread over 2 years in the Audit, Fraud and Risk service customer revenue. | (25) | Undeliverable | 0 | 25 | The saving was reduced by LGSS to $£ 10 k$. This will be picked up in the repatriation of the LGSS budgets. |
| R20-16 | Leisure Contract savings | (50) | Delayed | (17) | 33 | Crownhill Meeting Place is due to be transferred to the parish council resulting in reduced contract costs, however this has been delayed. It is estimated the transfer will be completed in December. The expectation is that a $£ 17 \mathrm{k}$ saving will be achieved in 20/21 and full saving from 21/22 onwards |
| 559 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

ANNEX C
ANNEX C - HRA FORECAST KEY VARIANCES
Table 1 - High Level Revenue Summary to September 2020 P6

| Housing Revenue Account <br> Revenue Summary | Year to Date |  |  | Forecast to Year End |  |  | Movement |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $2020 / 21$ <br> Budget to Date | 2020/21 <br> Actuals to Date | $2020 / 21$ <br> YTD <br> Variance | 2020/21 <br> Full Year Budget | Current <br> Forecast to 31.03.21 | Variance to Latest Forecast | Period 3 <br> Forecast | Movement from Period 3 |
| Service | £m | £m | £m | £m | fm | £m | £m | £m |
| Service Director H+R Total | 0.442 | 0.530 | 0.088 | 17.033 | 15.870 | (1.164) | 15.937 | (0.067) |
| Asset Management Total | 6.185 | 6.021 | (0.163) | 12.876 | 12.868 | (0.007) | 12.767 | 0.101 |
| Sheltered Housing Total | 0.783 | 0.622 | (0.161) | 1.510 | 1.508 | (0.002) | 1.755 | (0.247) |
| Housing Regeneration Total | 0.897 | 1.068 | 0.171 | 1.576 | 1.562 | (0.015) | 1.593 | (0.031) |
| Housing Operations Total | (24.974) | (22.769) | 2.205 | (50.977) | (50.320) | 0.657 | (50.364) | (0.044) |
| Prevention + Access Total | 0.105 | 0.112 | 0.008 | 0.187 | 0.187 | 0.000 | 0.189 | (0.002) |
| Housing Allocations Total | 0.381 | 0.294 | (0.087) | 0.648 | 0.661 | 0.013 | 0.668 | (0.007) |
| Learning \& Development Total | 0.018 | 0.007 | (0.010) | 0.035 | 0.035 | (0.000) | 0.036 | (0.001) |
| HRA Total | (16.163) | (14.113) | 2.050 | (17.112) | (17.629) | (0.517) | (17.419) | (0.298) |
| Revenue Contribution to Capital | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 9.853 | 10.369 | 0.517 | 10.160 | 0.298 |
| HRA Total | (16.163) | (14.113) | 2.050 | (7.259) | (7.259) | 0.000 | (7.259) | 0.000 |

Table 2 - High Level Variations

| Service Area | HRA | Responsible Officer | Michael Kelleher | Forecast Variance fm | (£0.517m) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Variations: <br> - Following the revi with further ( $£ 0.696$ by CLT. These saving service areas. <br> - Net Additional inc rent lost from decom $£ 0.058 \mathrm{~m}$, and estim | n-ess cy sa ted in | udgets and working oost pay awards and a onal Revenue Contrib <br> cquisition of new stock rent lost from higher ents bad debt due to | sely with budget $m$ reed pro-rata in ye ion to Capital, offse <br> in past years and t oids ( $£ 0.186 \mathrm{~m}$ ), fall pact of COVID-19 | gers, a total of ( $£ 0$. udgets re-allocation COVID-19 and non <br> year adding to renta ility recharges due Utility charges $£ 0.81$ | been iden <br> itment app <br> 9 impact in <br> This is offs e in utility |

ANNEX D - DSG FORECAST KEY VARIANCES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
The DSG is reporting an anticipated surplus carry forward at the end of $2020 / 21$ of $£ 2.564 \mathrm{~m}$.
Table 1 - The DSG High Level Forecast Summary to September 2020:

| DSG Forecast | £m |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Schools | Central <br> School <br> Services | Early <br> Years | High <br> Needs | Total |
| 2019/20 Budgeted Surplus C/F | $(0.727)$ | 0.000 | $(0.243)$ | $(1.774)$ | $\mathbf{( 2 . 6 3 6 )}$ |
| 2020/21 Budgeted DSG Allocation | $(203.584)$ | $(1.496)$ | $(21.652)$ | $(44.506)$ | $\mathbf{( 2 7 1 . 2 3 6 )}$ |
| 2020/21 Budgeted Expenditure | 204.283 | 1.496 | 21.651 | 44.507 | $\mathbf{2 7 1 . 9 3 7}$ |
| 2020/21 Budgeted Carry Forward | $\mathbf{( 0 . 0 2 8 )}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 2 4 4 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 . 6 6 5 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 . 9 3 6 )}$ |
| 2019/20 Actual Surplus C/F | $(0.792)$ | $(0.006)$ | $(0.164)$ | $(1.224)$ | $\mathbf{( 2 . 1 8 5 )}$ |
| 2020/21 Actual DSG Allocation | $(203.584)$ | $(1.496)$ | $(21.652)$ | $(44.506)$ | $\mathbf{( 2 7 1 . 2 3 6 )}$ |
| 2020/21 Forecast Expenditure | 203.950 | 1.496 | 21.389 | 44.022 | $\mathbf{2 7 0 . 8 5 7}$ |
| 2020/21 Forecast Carry Forward | $\mathbf{( 0 . 4 2 5 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 0 0 6 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 4 2 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 . 7 0 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 2 . 5 6 4 )}$ |
| Variance to Budget | $\mathbf{( 0 . 3 9 8 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 0 0 6 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 1 8 3 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 0 4 2 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 0 . 6 2 9 )}$ |

Table 2 - High Level Variations

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Key Variations: <br> - Schools Block 0.2\%: Forecast surplus carry forward into $2021 / 22$ of $£ 0.425 \mathrm{~m}$ which will be held and allocated 2021/22 funding formula. The in-year underspend of $£ 0.398 \mathrm{~m}$ is as a result of an increased surplus carry for $2019 / 20$ of $£ 0.065 \mathrm{~m}$, a reduction in rates funding to schools of $£ 0.055 \mathrm{~m}$ and the growth fund contingency fo required at secondary schools is not expected to be required resulting in a reduction of $£ 0.278 \mathrm{~m}$. <br> - Central School Services 0.4\%: Forecast surplus carry forward into $\mathbf{2 0 2 1 / 2 2}$ of $\mathbf{£ 0 . 0 0 6 m}$ as a result of a surplus from 2019/20. <br> - Early Years Block 2.0\%: Forecast surplus carry forward into $2021 / 22$ of $£ 0.427 \mathrm{~m}$ which is being held to man take up within the block. The in-year underspend of $£ 0.183 \mathrm{~m}$ is due to a reduction of $£ 0.079 \mathrm{~m}$ carry forward an underspend of $£ 0.336 \mathrm{~m}$ on the 3 and 4 year olds, which is to be expected as the increase in grant fundi passed to providers in order to build up a small contingency early in the year to manage fluctuations in take An overspend of $£ 0.074 \mathrm{~m}$ on 2 year olds is forecast as take up is expected to be higher than the funding alloc census being based on January 2020 only this year and therefore any increase in take up will not be funded. <br> - High Needs Block 3.8\%: Forecast surplus carry forward into 2021/22 of $£ 1.707$. The in-year underspend result of a reduced surplus carry forward of $£ 0.442 \mathrm{~m}$ from 2019/20 offset with: <br> - Independent special school placements forecast underspend of $£ 0.376 \mathrm{~m}$, based on current packages in of residential school placement numbers have fallen from 16 in 2019/20 to 14 in 2020/21 with a nu packages coming to an end. <br> - Top up funding in mainstream schools is forecast to underspend by $£ 0.234 \mathrm{~m}$. This predominantly from se the amount of SEN support payments being made to children without an EHCP, as schools have been clas 19. <br> - Special school top funding forecast overspend of $£ 0.102 \mathrm{~m}$. The forecasts have been updated to reflec |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

information known in time for the September payments to special schools, however this will continue to be reviewed to ensure all new starters and leavers are properly accounted for, with the correct bandings for the October payments.
Funding for special units is forecast to underspend by $£ 0.095 \mathrm{~m}$. This is as a result of vacant places within departments during the summer term and therefore reductions in top up spend. Th budget was set on 122 places during this period, whilst we have seen 99 places being occupied.
ANNEX E - RESERVES POSITION
This table summarises the reserves position of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2021:

| Reserve | Balance 1 April 2020 | Reserves removed \& Held Centrally | In-Year Movements | P6 Current <br> Balance <br> 31/03/21 | Future Commitments / Not Available | Balance remaining |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GF Working Balance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General Fund Balance | (21.155) | 0.000 | (1.982) | (23.137) | 23.137 | 0.000 |
| GF Budget Management |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Funding Core Responsibilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Corporate Property Reserve * sinking funds | (3.204) | 0.000 | (1.111) | (4.315) | 4.315 | 0.000 |
| HR Manpower Planning Reserve | (2.185) | 0.000 | 0.026 | (2.159) | 2.159 | 0.000 |
| Internal Insurance Fund | (1.609) | 0.000 | 0.344 | (1.265) | 1.265 | 0.000 |
| Pension Fund | (1.243) | 0.000 | (0.915) | (2.158) | 2.158 | 0.000 |
| Managing High Volatility |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Covid 19 Reserve | (6.078) | (4.157) | 6.078 | (4.157) | 4.157 | 0.000 |
| Highways Severe Weather Reserve | (0.423) | 0.173 | 0.000 | (0.250) | 0.250 | 0.000 |
| Housing Benefit Subsidy Equalisation | (1.217) | 0.717 | 0.000 | (0.500) | 0.500 | 0.000 |
| LCTS \& Welfare | (0.961) | 0.000 | 0.171 | (0.790) | 0.790 | 0.000 |
| Legal Fees Reserve | (1.533) | (0.073) | 0.120 | (1.486) | 1.486 | 0.000 |
| Overpayments and Welfare Reform | (1.430) | 0.930 | 0.040 | (0.460) | 0.460 | 0.000 |
| Collection Fund Cashflow Reserve | (9.475) | 0.000 | (3.832) | (13.307) | 13.307 | 0.000 |
| Local Government Reorganisation Debt Reserve | (2.099) | 0.000 | 1.959 | (0.140) | 0.140 | 0.000 |
| Delivering Transformation and Change |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strategic Development Fund (was VFM) | (2.220) | 0.000 | 1.151 | (1.069) | 1.069 | 0.000 |
| Office 365 Implementation | (0.300) | 0.000 | 0.150 | (0.150) | 0.150 | 0.000 |
| Housing Service Review | (0.140) | 0.000 | 0.140 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Customer Service and Digital | (0.964) | 0.000 | 0.167 | (0.797) | 0.797 | 0.000 |


| Children's ICT Investment | (0.128) | 0.128 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Print Room Relocation | (0.050) | 0.000 | 0.050 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Feasibility Fund | (0.800) | 0.700 | 0.000 | (0.100) | 0.100 | 0.000 |
| GF Temporary Earmarked Reserves |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Adult Social Care Residency Cases | (0.200) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.200) | 0.200 | 0.000 |
| Bradwell Abbey | (0.361) | 0.000 | 0.361 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Brexit | (0.160) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.160) | 0.160 | 0.000 |
| Broadband Delivery UK project. | (0.081) | 0.000 | 0.040 | (0.041) | 0.041 | 0.000 |
| City Archives Project | (0.014) | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Community \& Cultural Services Review (CCSR) | (0.060) | 0.000 | 0.060 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Conservation Areas | (0.016) | 0.000 | 0.004 | (0.012) | 0.012 | 0.000 |
| Events Reserve | (0.119) | 0.019 | 0.000 | (0.100) | 0.100 | 0.000 |
| Heritage at Risk | (0.046) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.046) | 0.046 | 0.000 |
| Independent Review of Flooding Incident (May 2018) | (0.026) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.026) | 0.026 | 0.000 |
| NRSWA \& Permit Funding (City Fibre) | (0.064) | 0.000 | 0.064 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Parish Partnership | (0.062) | 0.000 | 0.020 | (0.042) | 0.042 | 0.000 |
| Parks Improvement Funding | (0.047) | 0.000 | 0.023 | (0.024) | 0.024 | 0.000 |
| Planning Studies | (0.108) | 0.073 | 0.015 | (0.019) | 0.019 | 0.000 |
| Pocket Parks | (0.008) | 0.000 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Political Priorities Reserve | 0.000 | 0.000 | (10.047) | (10.047) | 10.047 | 0.000 |
| Revenue Financing Reserve | (0.003) | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Road Safety Budget | (0.039) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.039) | 0.039 | 0.000 |
| Health \& Safety reserve | (0.030) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.030) | 0.030 | 0.000 |
| Highways and E\&W transformation reserve | (0.201) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.201) | 0.201 | 0.000 |
| European City of Sport | (0.048) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.048) | 0.048 | 0.000 |
| Bracknell House | (0.015) | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| School Mobility Action Plan | (0.022) | 0.000 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Mobility Action Plan | (0.089) | 0.000 | 0.060 | (0.029) | 0.029 | 0.000 |
| Hot spot litter pick | (0.017) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.017) | 0.017 | 0.000 |
| Tree management survey and strategy | (0.110) | 0.000 | 0.110 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |


| Estate regeneration | (0.100) | 0.000 | 0.050 | (0.050) | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fly tipping | (0.027) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.027) | 0.027 | 0.000 |
| Illegal encampments | (0.100) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.100) | 0.100 | 0.000 |
| Project officer | (0.029) | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Non commercial bus service | (0.058) | 0.000 | 0.058 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Environmental Crime Enforcement officers | (0.065) | 0.000 | 0.040 | (0.025) | 0.025 | 0.000 |
| 3G Pitch sinking fund | (0.101) | 0.000 | (0.055) | (0.156) | 0.156 | 0.000 |
| Period Poverty | (0.042) | 0.000 | 0.004 | (0.038) | 0.038 | 0.000 |
| MK 3D App | (0.014) | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Ouse Valley Link | (0.006) | 0.006 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Parking Facilities | (0.007) | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Devolved Landscape provision | (0.044) | 0.000 | 0.015 | (0.029) | 0.029 | 0.000 |
| Budget Management - Ring-fenced |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Better Care Fund | (0.655) | 0.000 | 0.655 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Bereavement Reserve | (2.254) | 0.000 | (0.816) | (3.069) | 3.069 | 0.000 |
| Parking Reserve | (0.023) | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Public Health | (1.222) | 0.000 | (0.103) | (1.325) | 1.325 | 0.000 |
| Tariff Management |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| One-off Costs of the HCA Transfer | (0.283) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.283) | 0.283 | 0.000 |
| Tariff Reserve | (5.341) | 0.000 | (0.420) | (5.761) | 5.761 | 0.000 |
| Delivering Capital Programme - GF |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Reserve - GF | (15.977) | (1.317) | 8.282 | (9.012) | 9.012 | 0.000 |
| Feasibility Work for Education Capital Programme | (0.287) | 0.287 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Infrastructure Reserve | (18.360) | 0.000 | 0.988 | (17.372) | 17.372 | 0.000 |
| New Homes Bonus | (6.468) | 2.504 | 2.728 | (1.236) | 1.236 | 0.000 |
| Planning Gain Reserve (S106) | (1.817) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (1.817) | 1.817 | 0.000 |
| Waste Cashflow Reserve | (2.644) | 0.000 | 0.858 | (1.786) | 1.786 | 0.000 |
| 3rd Party |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LGSS Reserve | (0.919) | 0.000 | 0.919 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| LD Pooled Budget Reserve | (0.048) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.048) | 0.048 | 0.000 |
| SALIX Reserve | (0.250) | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.250) | 0.250 | 0.000 |


| Schools Balances | $(7.966)$ | 0.000 | 1.673 | $(6.293)$ | 6.293 | 0.000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total General Fund Reserves | $\mathbf{( 1 2 4 . 2 6 4 )}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{8 . 2 6 7}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 1 5 . 9 9 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 5 . 9 9 7}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ |
| HRA Reserves |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HRA Working Balance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HRA Balance | $(7.259)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | $(7.259)$ | 7.259 | 0.000 |
| Delivering Capital Programme - HRA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Block Improvements/Regeneration reserve | $(1.487)$ | 1.387 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Capital Reserve - HRA | $(56.071)$ | $(1.493)$ | 16.600 | $(40.964)$ | 40.964 | 0.000 |
| Lakes Estates Regeneration Project | $(0.106)$ | 0.106 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Major Repairs Reserve | $(16.280)$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | $(16.280)$ | 16.280 | 0.000 |
| Total HRA Reserves | $\mathbf{( 8 1 . 2 0 3 )}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 . 7 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{( 6 4 . 5 0 3 )}$ | $\mathbf{6 4 . 5 0 3}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ |
| Total Reserves | $\mathbf{( 2 0 5 . 4 6 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 . 9 6 7}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 8 0 . 5 0 0 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 0 . 5 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 0}$ |



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|  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\text { g }}{\sim}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { O} \\ & \hline \ddot{g} \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \hat{2} \\ 2 \end{gathered}\right.$ | $\bar{K}$ | \％${ }_{\text {¢ }}^{\text {\％}}$ | \％${ }_{\text {\％}}$ |  |  | － | 菷 |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \underset{\sim}{\tilde{w}} \end{array}$ | $\stackrel{\text { gr }}{0}$ | 亳 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\circ}{\circ} \\ & \stackrel{\circ}{4} \end{aligned}$ | \％ | \％ | \％ | $\stackrel{\square}{\text { a }}$ | \％ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|} \substack{3} \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | 然 |  |  | $\stackrel{8}{6}$ | \％ |  | 産 |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \frac{⿸ 厂 万 ⿱ ⿰ ㇒ 一 乂 口 灬 ~}{\circ} \end{array}$ | 考 |  | \％ |
|  |  |  | － | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\sim}$ |  | 。 | － | 。 | 导等 | 尔 |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\text { ¢ }}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \stackrel{\pi}{\tilde{y}} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | － |  | $\stackrel{N}{\tilde{j}}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|} \hline \frac{8}{7} \end{array}$ | \％ | 毞 | 云 | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\sim}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \frac{?}{8} \\ \stackrel{y}{2} \end{array}\right\|$ | 笴 | 汹 |  |  | \％ | 帯 |  |  | － | 畜 | \％ | 䯸 |  | 荷 |
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|  |  | and |  |  | \％ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \stackrel{\text { on }}{7} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hat{6} \\ \substack{2} \end{gathered}$ | $5$ | N |  |  | eise | － | 旁 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|l} \hline \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $$ | $$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{6} \\ & \vec{む} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|} \substack{\text { a }} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 8.8 \\ & \hline 8 \\ & \hline 8 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & 8 \\ & \hline 0.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}\right.$ | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}_{\circ_{0}^{\circ}} 0^{\circ}$ |  | 䧺 | $\stackrel{i}{n}$ |  | 蕣 | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{7}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|c\|} \substack{4 \\ \hline} \end{array}$ | \％ |  |  |
|  |  | an |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { 然 } \\ & \text { 等 } \end{aligned}$ | 。 |  |  | 刮 |  |  |  | 筞 | $\stackrel{\stackrel{\circ}{8}}{\substack{\circ}}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline ⿺ 辶 ⿱ 丷 天 心 \\ \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 区. } \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\mathrm{m}} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{d} \\ & \vec{~} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{2} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{c} \end{aligned}$ |  | $$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 㨞 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \underset{\tilde{d}}{\substack{2}} \mid \end{gathered}\right.$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0 \\ & \stackrel{0}{5} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |  |  | 遃 | 害 | $\begin{array}{lll} \hat{n} & \stackrel{y}{0} \\ \tilde{i} \\ \tilde{i n} \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oig } \\ & \tilde{j} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \overline{\vec{Z}} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\stackrel{y}{*}} \\ & \stackrel{y}{d} \end{aligned}$ | $\stackrel{\substack{5 \\ 5}}{ }$ | 㕑 |  |  |
|  | （ex |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 等 } \end{aligned}$ | － |  |  | N |  |  |  | 析 |  |  | $$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { "ब } \\ & \text { öd } \end{aligned}$ | Oig |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|l} \hline \stackrel{y y y y}{c} \end{array}$ | $$ | $$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\circ} \\ & \text { 合 } \end{aligned}$ | $$ |  | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ |  |  | 厱 | $\sum_{i}^{N}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { y } \\ & \stackrel{y}{0} \end{aligned}$ | 萼 | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\overrightarrow{7}}$ | \％ | － |  | 考 |
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|  | $\stackrel{\text { g }}{\text { g }}$ | 兩 | 离令 | 営 | 遃 | 感 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 爱 } \\ & \stackrel{y}{4} \end{aligned}$ | 8 | 答 | \％ |  |  | 窝 |
| $\square$ | 毞 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 㵄 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | 咢 | 哭 |  |  | 产 | 筞 |  |  |  | 墙 |
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|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 亮 } \\ & \text { 旁 } \\ & \text { 要 } \end{aligned}$ | $\frac{a}{3}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{2} \\ & \text { in } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{2} \\ & \frac{3}{3} \\ & \frac{b}{6} \\ & \frac{3}{3} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 夢 } \\ & \frac{8}{8} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 骨 } \\ & \text { 各 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 毕 } \\ & \text { 突 } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 苃 } \\ & \text { eng } \end{aligned}$ |  | 蓇 | \＆ |  |  |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { gis } \\ & \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$ |  | 毞 | 䘡 | （1） | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\underline{⿺ 𠃊 ⿳ 亠 丷 厂 彡}} \\ & \delta \end{aligned}$ |  |  | 䘡 |  | 䘡 |  |  |  | 麌 |  |  | （ | ¢ |  | 咢 |  | （\％ |  | （er |
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| $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \frac{8}{2} \\ \hline \frac{2}{2} \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | 旡 |  | \％ |  |  |  | \％ | 默 | 旡 | 妾 | 旁 |  | 歇 |  |  | ¢ ¢ | 縤 |  | 离 |  | 旡 | 免 | 旡 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} \\ \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


Capital Expenditure Forecast September 2020

|  |  | $\stackrel{8}{6}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | \％ | $\stackrel{3}{6}$ |  |  | 紋 |  |  |  |  | 發 |  | 皆 | 覅 |  |  |  |
| 童 | E | ¢ |  | \％ | ¢ |  | \％ | － | 边 | \％ั๊ |  | ${ }_{8}$ | 毞 | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ | ${ }_{6}^{\circ}$ |
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|  |  | 音 妾 皆 |  |  | 洔 |  |  | 咅 咅 学 |  |  |  | 铝 | 䘡 |  | 鼌 | 高 |
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Capital Expenditure Forecast September 2020

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| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \frac{y}{3} \\ \hline ⿳ 亠 口 冋 ⿱ ⿱ 亠 䒑 日 心 \end{array}$ | \％ | 5 | 皆 | 䵣 | \％ | 皆 | ¢ \％ | 皆 | ¢ |  | 部 | \％ | 部 | \％ | \％ | ¢ |  | 矿 | 旡 | 默 | \％ | 砣 |  |  | 唇 |
| $\stackrel{8}{8}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 景 |  |  | d |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 遃 |  |


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|  | \％ | 等 | 8 | \％ | $\stackrel{\text { d }}{\substack{6}}$ |  |  |  |  |  | \％ | \％ | ¢ֻ |  |  | 迢离 |  | $\stackrel{8}{7}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { og } \\ \stackrel{y}{c} 0 \end{gathered}$ | 器 | 黄高 | 骨 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 骨 } \\ & \text { 感 } \end{aligned}$ |  | \％ | － | 皆 |
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|  | 皆 | 䈴 | \％ | 唇 | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \stackrel{y}{6} \\ & \frac{8}{3} \end{aligned}$ |  | Rex |  |  | （ | 8 | 器 | \％ |  |  | \％ |  | $\stackrel{8}{\square}$ |  | 兴号 |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 毕 } \\ & \text { 亭 } \end{aligned}$ |  | \％ | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\substack{\text { c }}}$ | 器 |
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|  |  |  | ${ }_{\text {\％}}^{\text {\％}}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\mathrm{b}}}{8} \\ & \frac{1}{5} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{b_{0}} \\ & \stackrel{y}{6} \end{aligned}$ | 枈 | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{y_{0}^{2}} \\ & \delta \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 裳 } \\ & \text { 亳 } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\frac{\tilde{⿺ 𠃊}}{\underline{\overline{1}}}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 咢 |
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| $\begin{aligned} & \frac{3}{\frac{3}{2}} \\ & \frac{2}{2} \end{aligned}$ | 唇 | \％ | 枵 | \％ | 部 | 够 | \％ | 5 | 旁 | 䜌 | 皆 | ${ }_{\text {\％}}^{5}$ | 部 | 毞 | \％ | 枈 |  | \％ | \％ | \％ |  |  |  | 默 |  |  | \％ |
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|  | $\stackrel{\text { E }}{\substack{8}}$ |  | 8 | $\stackrel{8}{\square}$ |  | กั๋ | \％ | 侶 | 皆 |  | \％ | \％ |  |  | \％ | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\substack{\text { and }}}$ | $0^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | \％ | 唖 | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ | 愻 | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ | 覴 | 登 | 颜 | 路 | 星 | \％ | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ | \％ |  |  | $$ | \％ |  |  |  | － | 䳫 | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{6}$ |
|  | 䨖 |  | 8 | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ |  | \％\％ | $\frac{8}{4}$ | 毞 | $$ |  | \％ | \％ |  |  | ¢ | 竧年 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 䩧 | $\stackrel{\square}{\text { a }}$ | \％ | 㨞 | 棃 | 部 | 敛 | $\stackrel{7}{6}$ | 亳 | \％ | 旁 | \％\％ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 侖 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | \％ | 厱 |  |  |  |  | \％ | － |  | － | 。 | \％ | \％ | \％ |
|  | \％ | 毞 | \％ | 閏 | $\stackrel{\text { g }}{\text { ¢ }}$ | 枈 | 愛 | \％ |  | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ | 碇 | $\stackrel{\%}{8}$ |  | － |  |  | 这 | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \hline \frac{7}{7} \\ ⿱ 丷 ⿱ ⿻ ⿴ 囗 丷 丷 日 寸 十 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | 㕑 | \％ | 咢 | ${ }^{\text {\％}}$ | \％ |  | 㮪 |  |
|  | 営 | 举 | \％ | \％ | $\stackrel{\text { \％}}{\substack{\text { g }}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 爵 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 敛 | \％ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 登 } \\ & \end{aligned}$ | 呂 | ¢ ¢ ¢ | $\stackrel{\text { ®̃ }}{ }$ |  | ${ }^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 硡 | $\stackrel{\text { 䠞 }}{ }$ |  | 号 |  | 器 | 恨 | 哴 |  | 镸 | 铲 | 8 | \％ | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{8}$ |  |  |  |  | \％ |  |  |  |  | 㰤 | \％ | $\stackrel{8}{6}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{8}{3} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 倉 } \\ & \frac{5}{3} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { E } \\ & \text { 咅 } \\ & \text { 咅 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { E } \\ & \text { 咅 } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Bex |  |  |  |  |
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| 管 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 爰 } \\ & \frac{8}{8} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { gig } \\ & \text { 密 } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | 商 皆 | 育 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


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|  |  | ${ }^{\circ}$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | $\bigcirc$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 路 } \\ & \underset{\sim}{2} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 跂 } \\ & \underset{7}{7} \end{aligned}$ | － |  | ¢ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | ${ }^{\circ}$ | － |  | － | $\bigcirc$ |
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Capital Expenditure Forecast September 2020


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Capital Expenditure Forecast September 2020

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|  |  |  | Total Project |  |  |  |  | Invear |  |  |  |  |  |
| munt／Proiect |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Project Manager } \\ \text { Name } \end{gathered}$ | Total Expenditure Capital Budget | Prior Year Expenditure Actuals | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total Expenditure } \\ \text { Actuals to date } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total Scheme } \\ \text { Forecast } \end{gathered}$ | Forecast Variance <br> to Capital Budge | $\begin{gathered} \text { Current Year Capital } \\ \text { Budget } \end{gathered}$ | Current Year Actuals | Current Year Actuals Variance <br> Actuals Varianc | Current Forecast $2020 / 21$ | Forecast Slippage to Future Years | Forecast Variance to Capital Budget |
| $5072 \times 018$ | Resources |  | 7，250，015 | 5，859，592 | 6，081，374 | 7，250，014 | －1 | 1，257，710 | 221，782 | 1，035，928 | 842，399 | 415，311 | 0 |
| 5073＜011 | İT |  | 7，250，015 | 5，85，592 | 6，081，374 | 7，25，014 |  | 1，257，710 | 221，782 | 1，035，928 | 842，399 | 415，311 |  |
| 5074×073 | I＇T |  | 7，250，015 | 5，859，592 | 6，081，374 | 7，25，014 | ${ }_{-1}$ | 1，257，710 | 221，782 | 1，035，928 | 842，399 | 415，311 |  |
| 50cP80770 | Revenue \＆Benefits System | Robin Bates | 888，699 | 593，157 | 741，987 | 888，699 |  | 162，830 | 148，830 | 14，000 | 162，830 | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 50CP00499 | ICTAsset funding Programme | Poul Wheeler | 1，22，157 | 723，030 | 784，193 | 1，229，157 |  | 506，127 | ${ }^{61,163}$ | 444，964 | 150，000 | 356，127 |  |
| 50crxos50 | Intusion Detection \＆Prevention System | Poul Wheeler | 58，421 | 58，421 | 27，206 | 58，421 | $\bigcirc$ | 0 | －31，215 | 31，215 | 。 | 。 |  |
| 50crxos501 | Dotat Hosting \＆Storage | Poul Wheeler | 3，56，920 | 3，52，470 | 3，527，157 | 3，56，919 | －1 | 3，499 | 4，687 | 29，62 | 34，449 | － |  |
| 50CPX06699 | vol Replacement | Poul Wheeler | 586，543 | 586，543 | 584，80 | 586，543 | 0 | 。 | －1，673 | 1，673 | 。 | 。 |  |
| 50crxoz701 | PC＇s \＆Laptoss Replacement | Poul Wheeler | 187，426 | 139，306 | 168，521 | 187，426 | $\bigcirc$ | 48，120 | 3，215 | 18，905 | 48，120 | 0 |  |
| 50CPX0834 | vMWare Enteprise ogreement |  | 522，89 | 105，849 | 105，84 | 522，899 | 0 | 417，000 | 0 | 417，000 | 417，000 | 0 |  |
| 50cP＞00722 | Network Security \＆Wifi | Poul Wheeler | 220，000 | 130，816 | 141，591 | 220，000 | $\bigcirc$ | 89，184 | 10，775 | 78，099 | 30，000 | 59，184 |  |
| GRAND TOTAL |  |  | 606，825，022 | 312，800，118 | 347，640，724 | 606，581，056 | －240，036 | 157，142，691 | 34，80，606 | 122，302，085 | 140，587，009 | 19，871，97］ | 3，316，015 |

## ANNEX G

Annex G
Tariff Programme Forecast September 2020

| Scheme | $\begin{gathered} \text { Current Year Capital } \\ \text { Budget - Approved } \\ \text { at DD } \end{gathered}$ | Amendments | Revised Budget September 2020 | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Current Forecast } \\ 2020 / 21 \end{array}$ | Forecast Variance | Forecast Slippage to Future Years | Variance to Capital Budget after Slippage |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash Investment |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roads and Highways |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monkston Junctions | 200 | 0 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brinklow Junction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Crownhill \& Loughton Junctions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WEA Junction Improvements | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CMK Junction Improvements |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A422 Junction Improvements | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| V2 / H4 Extensions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strategic Land Traffic Mitigation | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Broughton Brook Fen Street crossing | 300 | 0 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tariff Local Roads | 107 | 0 | 107 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| H10 connection to Church Farm | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Redway Super Routes | 75 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fairfields Civils Infrastructure | 598 | 0 | 598 | 248 | (350) | 350 | 0 |
| Kents Hill School Redway Connections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Roads and Highways | 1,330 | 0 | 1,330 | 980 | (350) | 350 | 0 |
| Public Transport |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TP \& KS Bus Subsidy | 106 | 0 | 106 | 106 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Magna Park \& Whitehouse Bus Stops | 135 | 0 | 135 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| P T Patronage and Subsidy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East - West Bus | 357 | 0 | 357 | 357 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Public Transport | 598 | 0 | 598 | 598 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Schools |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fairfields Early Years Centre | 585 | 0 | 585 | 585 | 0 | 0 |  |
| WEA Primary 2 (Calverton Lane) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Whitehouse 12 FE Secondary School (WEA) | 7,510 | 0 | 7,510 | 7,510 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WEA Primary 3 ('Gravesend') | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| SLA Primary 2 (Glebe Meadow) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Schools | 8,095 | 0 | 8,095 | 8,095 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leisure and Culture |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MK Archive - STACCess | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MK Museum Redevelopment | 146 | 0 | 146 | 146 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wavendon Community Centre | 17 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expansion Area Public Art | 56 | 0 | 56 | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fairfields Community Sports | 806 | 0 | 806 | 806 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Fairfields Community Meeting Place | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| TP Sports \& Community Centre | 1,727 | 0 | 1,727 | 1,727 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brooklands Community Space | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Whitehouse (Area 10) WEA Leisure Facilities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 |  |
| WEA Community Meeting Place | 1,395 | 0 | 1,395 | 30 | $(1,365)$ | 1,365 | 0 |
| Wavendon Sports \& Community Centre | 150 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Wavendon Resource Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| WEA Library | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Fairfields Allotments | 237 | 0 | 237 | 237 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Fairfields LP4 | 75 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Fairfields Playing Fields | 399 | 0 | 399 | 399 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Wavendon Playing Fields | 0 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Brooklands Allotments | 46 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Whitehouse Allotments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| SLA Allotments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Brooklands Connections | 150 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Green Spaces | 3,250 | 0 | 3,250 | 3,250 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Leisure and Culture | 8,408 | 170 | 8,578 | 7,213 | $(1,365)$ | 1,365 |  |
| Social Care and Health |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Childrens Respite Care facility | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| MKUH Pathway Unit | 5,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 0 | $(5,000)$ | 5,000 |  |
| Heating \& Electrical Supply phase 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Strategic Land GP Surgery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Social Care Facilities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Adult Supported Housing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| CAMHS Expansion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Learning Disability Resource Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Childrens Long Term Care facility | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Social Care and Health | 5,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 0 | $(5,000)$ | 5,000 |  |
| Other Services |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expansion Area Flooding \& Drainage Schemes | 250 | 0 | 250 | 250 | 0 | 0 |  |
| University for Milton Keynes | 202 | 0 | 202 | 202 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Phase 2 Expansion Teaching \& Learning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Phase 3 Expansion Chaffron Way Skills Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Cemetery capacity - West Flank | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Cemetery capacity - East Flank | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Community Recycling Facility | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Carbon Offset Schemes | 175 | 0 | 175 | 175 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Voluntary Sector | 1,500 | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Inward Investment | 200 | 0 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total Other Services | 2,327 | 0 | 2,327 | 2,327 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 25,758 | 170 | 25,928 | 19,213 | $(6,715)$ | 6,715 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Works in Kind |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fen City Street | 3,950 | 0 | 3,950 | 3,950 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Tariff Local Roads | 750 | 0 | 750 | 750 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Fen Street Magna Park to Brooklands | 1,100 | 0 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Calverton Lane/Fairways | 1,350 | 0 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Stockwell Lane | 800 | 0 | 800 | 800 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Public Art (Works in Kind) | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 |  |
| KS Incidental Open Space | 58 | 0 | 58 | 58 | 0 | 0 |  |


| TP Open Space and Play | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TP Local Play Area 1 | 90 | 0 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EEA Local Play Area 6 | 315 | 0 | 315 | 315 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brooklands Open Space phase 2 | 1,250 | 0 | 1,250 | 1,250 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EEA District Park and Playing Fields | 1,527 | 0 | 1,527 | 1,527 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western Expansion Area Allotments 4 (Area 11) | 55 | 0 | 55 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western Expansion Area Local Play Area 5 | 125 | 0 | 125 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western Expansion Area Neighbourhood Play Area 4 | 150 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strategic Land | 640 | 0 | 640 | 640 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Works in Kind | 12,310 | 0 | 12,310 | 12,310 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Running Costs | 135 | 0 | 135 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Tariff Programme | 38,203 | 170 | 38,373 | 31,658 | $(6,715)$ | 6,715 | 0 |

## ANNEX H - MKC DEBT COLLECTION PERFORMANCE SUMMARY QUARTER 2

The Council collects a large range of different types of debts for the services that it provides to individuals and organisations. Whilst payment for a service in advance is the preferred method of collection there are some services where invoices will be issued.

The collection of debts for General Debtors, Council Tax \& Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayments is centralised within the Corporate Recovery team based in the Revenues and Benefit service.

The Housing Service is responsible for the collection of debts in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) with the exception of Former Tenant Arrears which sits with the Corporate Recovery team.

## General Debtors

These debts cover a wide range of services that the Council provides such as adult social care, rents and service charges on Council owned commercial properties, planning obligations and traded services such as the community language service, IT and HR for schools etc.

Invoices are issued by the service area and if the invoice is unpaid when its due date is passed it becomes the responsibility of the corporate recovery team.

Recovery is undertaken in accordance with the Council's Income \& Collection policy and Debt stream collection guidance. Up to three reminder letters are automatically generated for unpaid invoices and the corporate recovery team will seek to contact the customer to secure payment. If payment is not received, recovery options including the use of a debt collection agency or seeking to obtain a judgment in the County Court which would allow for the use of bailiffs, attachment of earnings, insolvency, charging order or third party payment orders are used as appropriate. Where actions incur upfront costs to the Council these will, where possible be recovered from the debtor.

## Table 1 - In year Performance

| Invoices <br> Raised <br> in 20/21 <br> £m's | Invoices <br> Written <br> Off <br> £m's | 2020/21 <br> Invoices <br> Cleared <br> £m's | In Year <br> Collection <br> Rate <br> \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 46.802 | 0.000 | 28.826 | $84.67 \%$ |


| \% of Invoices <br> Cleared <br> Within 3 <br> Months | \% of Invoices <br> Cleared <br> Within 6 <br> Months |
| :---: | :---: |
| $88.83 \%$ | $92.52 \%$ |

The in-year collection rate ( $84.67 \%$ ) is based on the value of invoices raised with a due date in Q2 that were cleared by the end of the Q2.
The \% of invoices cleared within 3 months ( $88.83 \%$ ) and 6 months ( $92.52 \%$ ) is based on the value of invoices raised in June 2020 and March 2020 respectively that are now cleared. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic proactive debt recovery was suspended at the end of March 2020 however this has recommenced during Q2 and automated reminders are now back in place.

Table 2 - Aged Debt

|  | $\mathbf{1 - 3 0}$ Days <br> Overdue <br> £m's | $\mathbf{3 1 - 9 0}$ <br> Days <br> Overdue <br> £m's | $\mathbf{9 1 - 1 8 3}$ <br> Days <br> Overdue <br> $\mathbf{£ m} \mathbf{s}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 4 - 3 6 5}$ <br> Days <br> Overdue <br> £m's | Over 365 <br> Days <br> Overdue <br> £m's | TOTAL <br> $\mathbf{f m \prime s}$ |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Q1 <br> end | 1.116 | 4.319 | 2.438 | 0.894 | 2.681 | 11.449 |
| Q2 <br> end | 0.845 | 3.974 | 1.607 | 1.705 | 3.051 | 11.182 |

Breakdown of aged debt by service area

|  | $\begin{aligned} & 1-30 \\ & \text { Days } \\ & \text { fm's } \end{aligned}$ | 31-90 <br> Days <br> fm's | 91-183 <br> Days <br> £m's | 184-365 <br> Days <br> £m's | Over <br> 365 <br> Days <br> fm's | TOTAL £m's |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chief Executive | 0.441 | 0.518 | 0.897 | 1.129 | 2.418 | 5.403 |
| Corporate | 0.000 | 2.999 | 0.002 | 0.148 | 0.021 | 3.170 |
| Deputy Chief Executive | 0.362 | 0.431 | 0.687 | 0.413 | 0.571 | 2.464 |
| LGSS | 0.042 | 0.026 | 0.021 | 0.015 | 0.041 | 0.145 |
| Grand Total | 0.845 | 3.974 | 1.607 | 1.705 | 3.051 | 11.182 |

## Council Tax \& Business Rates (NNDR)

Bills are issued annually for Council Tax and Business Rates and are payable in either 10 or 12 monthly instalments.

Reminders are issued if a payer should fall behind with their monthly instalments and if they fail to bring their instalments up to date, the right to pay in instalments is lost and the balance of the full year becomes payable immediately. Failure to make payment in full will result in the issue of a summons to the magistrates court and at the hearing the Council will be granted a liability order to recover the unpaid debt. Costs become payable by the debtor and are added to the liability order.

Debts may be recovered by payment arrangement, referral to enforcement agents, attachment of earnings or benefits (council tax only), insolvency, charging order (council tax only) or committal to prison for up to 90 days.

## Table 3 - In year collection for 2020/21

|  | Net Collectible Debit | Amount Collected | Target Collection Rate YTD | Actual Collection Rate YTD | Year <br> End <br> Forecast | $\begin{gathered} \text { MKC } \\ \text { 2019/20 } \\ \text { Collection } \\ \text { Rate } \end{gathered}$ | Average Collection Rate for Unitary Authorities 2019/20* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | £m | £m | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Council Tax | 158.422 | 89.790 | 57.90 | 56.68 | 97.70 | 98.0 | 96.6 |
| NNDR | 110.512 | 58.471 | 57.50 | 52.91 | 98.20 | 98.6 | 97.9 |

*Source from MHCLG - latest available data (July 2020)

Given the current economic climate there continues to be expected downturn in collection against target in Q2. Usual recovery processes were suspended since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March but have recommenced with reminder notices being issued in September 2020.

Table 4 - In year movement all years

|  | Council Tax |  |  | NNDR |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Previous Year Arrears Outstanding | $\begin{gathered} \text { Current } \\ \text { Year } \\ \text { 2020/21 } \end{gathered}$ | Total Outstanding | Previous Year Arrears Outstanding | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Current } \\ & \text { Year } \\ & \text { 2020/21 } \end{aligned}$ | Total Outstanding |
|  | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| 01/04/2020 | 6.853 | 158.284 | 165.136 | 3.405 | 180.096 | 183.502 |
| 30/04/2020 | 6.628 | 142.932 | 149.560 | 3.374 | 104.835 | 108.209 |
| 31/05/2020 | 6.347 | 126.284 | 132.631 | 3.431 | 93.962 | 97.393 |
| 30/06/2020 | 6.144 | 112.046 | 118.190 | 3.369 | 82.061 | 85.430 |
| 31/07/2020 | 5.922 | 97.106 | 103.029 | 3.487 | 72.365 | 75.852 |
| 31/08/2020 | 5.651 | 83.135 | 88.785 | 3.398 | 61.952 | 65.351 |
| 30/09/2020 | 5.432 | 68.643 | 74.075 | 3.301 | 52.081 | 55.382 |

At year end current year outstanding balance will be added to previous years arrears and therefore it is important to ensure that active recovery continues on both current year debt and arrears from previous years.

As with current year collection, the recovery of previous years arrears was suspended in March 2020 and this has resulted in a decrease in \% collected compared with previous years. The resumption of previous year debts being passed for further recovery is due to recommence in Q3.

## Housing Benefit Overpayment Debt

Housing Benefit overpayments may be recovered in three different ways:
(1) A standard weekly deduction made from a claimant's ongoing housing benefit claim, (in most cases $£ 11.10$ per week)
(2) Issuing an invoice where the claimant is no longer in receipt of housing benefit; recovery options include payment arrangement, deductions from earnings, referral to debt collection agents or county court action.
(3) By requesting the DWP to make a standard weekly deduction from other welfare benefits

Table 5 - Housing Benefit Overpayments Aged Debt

|  | Recovery <br> From <br> Ongoing <br> Benefit | Invoiced <br> Recovery | Deductions <br> From DWP <br> Benefit | TOTAL <br> Overpayment <br> to be <br> Recovered |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{f m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{f m}$ |
| Overpayments raised in <br> previous years | 1.347 | 5.377 | 0.204 | $\mathbf{6 . 9 2 8}$ |
| Overpayments raised in <br> current year | 0.758 | 0.638 | 0.040 | $\mathbf{1 . 4 3 5}$ |
| TOTAL overpayment to <br> be recovered | $\mathbf{2 . 1 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{6 . 0 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 4 3}$ | $\mathbf{8 . 3 6 3}$ |

There continues to be a shift from recovery from ongoing benefit to invoiced recovery as a consequence of the move of claimants from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit.

Table 6 - Recovery from Ongoing Benefit
$\left.\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|}\hline & \begin{array}{c}\text { Total } \\ \text { Overpayment to } \\ \text { be Recovered } \\ \text { Balance } \\ \text { as at: }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Inactive } \\ \text { (Claim } \\ \text { Benefits }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { In Active } \\ \text { Recovery or } \\ \text { or Pending) }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Queued to } \\ \text { Start }\end{array} \\ \hline \text { \% of Total Debt } \\ \text { in Active } \\ \text { Recovery }\end{array}\right]$

Inactive debt is where the Housing Benefit claim is not currently in payment due to an outstanding query and deductions cannot be made until the claim is put back into payment. Again the trend in the reduction in the debt to be recovered from ongoing benefit is demonstrated in Q2.

Table 7 - Recovery by Invoice in year

| In Year Collection | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Opening } \\ & \text { Debit } \\ & 01 / 04 / 20 \end{aligned}$ | Change in <br> Debit | Cash Collected | Write Offs | Balance Outstanding | 2020/21 <br> Collection <br> at End Q1 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2019/20 } \\ \text { Collection at } \\ 31 / 03 / 2020 \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | fm | £m | £m | £m | £m | \% | \% |
|  | 6.070 | 0.421 | (0.543) | (0.066) | 6.015 | 8.28 | 18.34 |

As with all other debt streams proactive recovery was suspended in Q1 but has resumed at the end of Q2.

## Table 8 - Long Term Collection- since 2012

| Opening <br> Debit <br> $\mathbf{0 1 / 0 4 / 1 2}$ | Change in <br> Debit | Cash <br> Collected | Write <br> Offs | Balance <br> Outstanding | Long Term <br> Collection <br> Rate | Long Term <br> Write Off <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{f m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{\%}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ |
| 3.550 | 15.370 | $(9.809)$ | $(3.096)$ | 6.015 | 51.84 | 16.36 |

This table shows an analysis of collection since April 2012. The calculation uses the Cash received between $1 / 4 / 12$ to date, divided by the balance at $1 / 4 / 12$ together with new debt raised since $1 / 4 / 12$, to give the long term collection rate.

## Housing (HRA \& GF)

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records all revenue expenditure and income relating to the provision of council dwellings and related services. HRA rents and service charges are billed through the Northgate housing system. In addition to these HRA charges, Temporary Accommodation (TA) and garage rents relating to General Fund housing (GF) are also billed through Northgate. Outstanding debt balances for HRA and GF are shown in table below. Collection of HRA \& GF Housing debts sits within the Housing team, with the exception of Former Tenant Arrears which is managed by the Corporate Recovery team in Revenues \& Benefits.

## Table 9 - HRA Debt

| Service | Opening <br> Outstanding <br> Debt <br> April 2020 | Current Debt <br> Outstanding <br> at Sept 2020 | Movement | $\mathbf{0 - 9 0}$ <br> Days * | $\mathbf{9 1 - 1 8 0}$ <br> Days * | $\mathbf{1 8 1 +}$ <br> Days * |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ |
| HRA | 4.210 | 4.979 | 0.769 | 1.704 | 0.939 | 2.336 |
| GF | 1.563 | 1.624 | 0.061 | 1.055 | 0.301 | 0.268 |

* Aged debt for rents and service charges is calculated on the basis of the total value of arrears divided by the weekly debit.

Housing debt levels have risen compared to past years as more Housing Benefit Claimants transition to Universal Credit. The roll out of Universal Credit in MK has accelerated and financial implications of COVID-19 will present significant risks to collection rates. It will be a challenge to maintain performance levels at current levels and the service will be seeking to improve processes for income collection to respond to this and maintain performance

## ANNEX I

## 2020/21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q2 (JUL-SEPT) UPDATE

## 1. Purpose

1.1. Local authorities are under legal obligation by the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the treasury risk management framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the Code). The Council is also required to have regard to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance in relation to Investments and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
1.2. The Code requires, as a minimum, the Council to report:
a) an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year; this was presented to Council on 26/02/2020;
b) a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (this report):
c) an annual report following the end of the year describing the activity undertaken compared to the strategy.
1.3. In line with best practice principles, the Council also presents quarterly update reports for Q1 (Cabinet 01/09/20) and Q3.
1.4. The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017 Edition) includes a requirement for local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy, a summary document to be approved by Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Council's Capital Strategy was also approved by Council on 26/02/2020.

## 2. External Context

## Economic background:

2.1. The Bank of England's (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept Bank Rate unchanged at $0.10 \%$ during August and September. It also kept unchanged the level of quantitative easing at $£ 745$ bn. Its forecasts were optimistic in terms of three areas:

- The fall in economic growth in the first half of 2020 was revised from -28\% to $-23 \%$ (subsequently revised to $-21.8 \%$ ). This is still one of the largest falls in output of any developed nation. However, it is only to be expected as the UK economy is heavily skewed towards consumer-facing services - an area which was particularly vulnerable to being damaged by lockdown.
- The forecast peak in unemployment rate was revised down from $9 \%$ in Q2 to 7.5\% by Q4 2020.
- It forecast that there would be excess demand in the economy by Q3 2022 causing inflation (CPI) to rise above its 2\% target in Q3 2022 (based on expectations of further loosening in policy). Nevertheless, even if the BoE were to leave policy unchanged, inflation was still projected to be above $2 \%$ in 2023.
2.2. The MPC also clarified its position on negative interest rates. It suggested that while negative rates can work in some circumstances, they would be less effective as a tool to stimulate the economy at this time when financial institutions are concerned about potential future loan losses. It has other instruments available, including further quantitative easing and the use of forward guidance, and so negative interest rates is seen as a last resort.
2.3. The MPC expected the $£ 300$ bn of quantitative easing purchases announced between its March and June meetings to continue until the turn of the year. This implies that the pace of purchases will slow.
2.4. On balance and with the economy was recovering better than expected, the MPC may not take immediate further action. However medium-term projections are a less informative guide of direction of travel than usual and downside risks persist in the short and medium-term.
2.5. The wind down of the Government furlough scheme through to the end of October is another development that could cause a need for more support for the economy later in the year. However, a second six-month package of support for job retention from November, along with further help for the self-employed, freelance and the hospitality industry, may provide some relief.
2.6. Overall, the pace of recovery is not expected to be in the form of a rapid bounce back but a more elongated and prolonged one, as even the sharp recovery in June to August still left the economy $11.7 \%$ smaller overall than it was in February. The last three months of 2020 are now likely to show no growth as consumers will likely remain cautious in spending and uncertainty over the outcome of the Brexit trade negotiations dampen sentiment.
2.7. One key addition to the Bank's forward guidance was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the $2 \%$ target sustainably". That seems designed to say, in effect, that even if inflation rises to $2 \%$ in a couple of years' time, do not expect Bank Rate to rise unless it is persistently above target.
2.8. The Financial Policy Committee (FPC) report on 6th August revised down their expected credit losses for the banking sector to somewhat less than £80bn. It stated that in its assessment, banks have buffers of capital more than sufficient to absorb the losses that are likely to arise under the MPC's central projection. The FPC stated that for real stress in the sector, the economic output would need to be twice as bad as the MPC's projection with unemployment rising to above 15\%.
2.9. Brexit uncertainties ahead of the end of December deadline are also likely to be a drag on recovery.
2.10. A further detailed economic commentary is shown at Appendix 1.


## Financial markets:

2.11. Gilt yields - upon which Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates are derived - were already on a generally falling trend up until the coronavirus crisis hit western economies during March. After an initial spike in March, yields fell sharply in response to major western central banks taking rapid policy action to deal with excessive stress in financial markets and starting massive quantitative easing driven purchases of government bonds. These actions acted to put downward pressure on government bond yields at a time when there has been a huge and rapid expansion of government expenditure financed by issuing bonds. Such unprecedented levels of issuance in normal circumstances would have increased supply so caused bond yields to rise sharply. But at end of September, all gilt yields from 1 to 6 years were negative, while even 25 -year yields were only at $0.76 \%$ and the 50 year at 0.60\%.

## 3. Borrowing

3.1. The Council's primary objective when borrowing is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should long-term plans change is a secondary objective.
3.2. Following the changes on $11^{\text {th }}$ March 2020 in margins over gilt yields (G), the current situation is as follows:

- PWLB Standard Rate is gilt plus 200 basis points ( $\mathrm{G}+200 \mathrm{bps}$ )
- PWLB Certainty Rate is gilt plus 180 basis points ( $\mathrm{G}+180 \mathrm{bps}$ )
- PWLB HRA Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- PWLB HRA Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80bps (G+80bps)
- Local Infrastructure Rate is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)
3.3. HM Treasury launched a wide-ranging consultation on the PWLB's future direction to allow key stakeholders to contribute to developing a system whereby PWLB loans can be made available at improved margins to support projects that meet certain qualifying criteria. Proposals include lower rates for authorities not engaged in 'debt for yield' activity, but restricting individual authorities access to PWLB entirely in a financial year in which 'debt for yield' is being pursued within the entire capital programme (regardless of financing means).
3.4. Officers took part in consultation discussions with HM Treasury and other Unitary authorities, and the Director of Finance and Resources responded to the consultation on behalf of the Council. The deadline was extended to $31^{\text {st }}$ July 2020 with implementation of the new lending terms expected in the latter part of this calendar year or financial year beginning 2021/22. It is possible that the non-HRA Certainty Rate will be subject to revision downwards when changes are announced; however, the timing of such a change is currently an unknown, although it would be likely to be within the current financial year.
3.5. Further updates will be presented through Treasury Management Update reports as they develop.
3.6. Tables 1 below sets out the profile of the Council's borrowing portfolio by source of loan:

Table 1: Borrowing profile at $\mathbf{3 0}^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 by loan source

| Tenor Bucket | Market Loans |  | PWLB Loans |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Amount | \% of <br> Total | Amount | \% of <br> Total | Amount | \% of <br> Total |
| Liquid | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% |
| < 1 Year | £5,000,000.00 | 33.3\% | £5,190,006.85 | 1.2\% | £10,190,006.85 | 2.2\% |
| 1-2 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £9,732,747.02 | 2.2\% | £9,732,747.02 | 2.1\% |
| 2-5 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £39,648,657.81 | 8.8\% | £39,648,657.81 | 8.6\% |
| 5-10 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £64,697,089.19 | 14.4\% | £64,697,089.19 | 14.0\% |
| 10-20 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £141,933,076.58 | 31.7\% | £141,933,076.58 | 30.6\% |
| 20-30 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £27,000,000.00 | 6.0\% | £27,000,000.00 | 5.8\% |
| 30-40 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £109,000,000.00 | 24.3\% | £109,000,000.00 | 23.5\% |
| 40-50 Years | £10,000,000.00 | 66.7\% | £51,360,000.00 | 11.4\% | £61,360,000.00 | 13.2\% |
| > 50 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% |
| Total | £15,000,000.00 | 100.0\% | £448,561,577.45 | 100.0\% | £463,561,577.45 | 100.0\% |

3.7. Tables 2 below sets out the profile of the Council's borrowing portfolio by interest rate structure/exposure:

Table 2: Borrowing profile at $\mathbf{3 0}^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 by interest rate structure

| Tenor Bucket | Fixed Rate Loans | \% of Total | Variable Rate Loans | \% of <br> Total | Total | \% of <br> Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Liquid | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% |
| < 1 Year | £5,190,006.85 | 1.1\% | £5,000,000.00 | 100.0\% | £10,190,006.85 | 2.2\% |
| 1-2 Years | £9,732,747.02 | 2.1\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £9,732,747.02 | 2.1\% |
| 2-5 Years | £39,648,657.81 | 8.6\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £39,648,657.81 | 8.6\% |
| 5-10 Years | £64,697,089.19 | 14.1\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £64,697,089.19 | 14.0\% |
| 10-20 Years | £141,933,076.58 | 31.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £141,933,076.58 | 30.6\% |
| 20-30 Years | £27,000,000.00 | 5.9\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £27,000,000.00 | 5.8\% |
| 30-40 Years | £109,000,000.00 | 23.8\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £109,000,000.00 | 23.5\% |
| 40-50 Years | £61,360,000.00 | 13.4\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £61,360,000.00 | 13.2\% |
| > 50 Years | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% | £0.00 | 0.0\% |
| Total | £458,561,577.45 | 100.0\% | £5,000,000.00 | 100.0\% | £463,561,577.45 | 100.0\% |

3.8. Chart 1 below shows the annual maturity profile of the Council's borrowing portfolio:

Chart 1: Borrowing profile at $\mathbf{3 0}{ }^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 by annual maturities

3.9. Chart 2 below shows the fallout structure of the Council's borrowing portfolio:

Chart 2: Borrowing profile at $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 by cumulative annual maturities

3.10. No new borrowing was undertaken during Q2.
3.11. PWLB principal repayment of $£ 1.837 \mathrm{~m}$ were made; a legacy 30 year loan for $£ 0.414 \mathrm{~m}$ that carried a $10.875 \%$ interest rate reached maturity at the end of September, and scheduled repayment of $£ 1.423 m$ were made against 10 annuity loans. As a result, the weighted average rate across the Council's borrowing portfolio at $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 dropped to $4.34 \%$ (4.35\% in Q1).
3.12. The Council continues to hold a $£ 5 \mathrm{~m}$ Lender’s Option Borrower’s Option (LOBO) loan where the lender has the option every 6 months to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. Treasury management practice is to present such loans at their next potential maturity date (in this case a rolling 6-month exposure) rather than their backstop maturity date (in this case November 2041). Given underlying market conditions the lender did not exercise their option during the quarter and is not expected to do so soon, so officers are considering this loan to be long term funding.

## 4. Debt Restructuring

4.1. No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the quarter. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited due to the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates. Officers and the Councils treasury advisors continue to monitor this position.

## 5. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Debt Pooling arrangements

5.1. The $1^{\text {st }}$ April 2012 saw the introduction of the Housing Self-Financing regime. As previously reported this Council adopted a single pool approach, whereby the Council manages its overall debt as a single portfolio and apportions costs to the General Fund (GF) and HRA at a consolidated rate in proportion to the debt held by each.
5.2. By adopting a single pool approach, any borrowing decisions by the GF impact upon the consolidated rate and therefore the debt costs apportioned to the HRA, and vice versa. As long as borrowing decisions are relatively balanced, then the impact is mitigated.
5.3. But on 30th October 2018, the Government removed the imposed debt caps which restricted how much housing authorities could borrow against their HRA. This opens up significant freedoms for additional borrowing by the HRA to support housing regeneration and new housing stock build programmes subject to the usual assessment criteria of the Prudential Code in demonstrating affordability, prudence and sustainability. In addition the Council would need to
establish a clear metrics for assessing HRA debt that may include commercial costing measures such as capital risk buffers, debt interest cover ratios and loan-to-value limits.
5.4. This increased capacity for significant HRA borrowing means that the Council's single pool approach to managing debt may no longer be most appropriate, and the GF and HRA may be better suited pursuing separate debt strategies. Officers, in consultation with the Council's treasury advisors, are refining proposals present to Cabinet on 01/09/2020 to change to a two-pool approach to future debt management arrangements before a final decision is made in February 2021.

## 6. Annual Investment Strategy

6.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2020/21, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on $26^{\text {th }}$ February 2020. It sets out the Council's fundamental investment priorities as being (in order):

1. Security of Capital;
2. Liquidity; and
3. Yield
6.2. The Council's investment activity during the quarter conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no difficulties meeting its liquidity requirements.
6.3. The Council's investment portfolio represents the short-term holding of positive cashflows at any given time, plus prudent medium and long term provisions, balances and reserves. During the quarter, the Council's investment balances ranged from a low of $£ 302.3 \mathrm{~m}$ to a high of $£ 334.6 \mathrm{~m}$, in part due the receipt and distribution of coronavirus related funding as well as normal cashflow timing differences between income and expenditure. The average balance held was $£ 310.8 \mathrm{~m}$. Table 3 below shows the Council’s investment maturity position at $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020:

Table 3: Investment Maturity Position at 30 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ September 2020

| Counterparty | Start <br> Date | Maturity <br> Date | Interest <br> Rate | Interest <br> Rate <br> Structure | Principal 0/S <br> $(\mathbf{£})$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Same-day access: Banks | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $0.0000 \%$ | Variable | $15,013.45$ |
| Barclays Bank plc | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $0.0100 \%$ | Variable | 26.98 |
| National Westminster Bank plc | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $0.2000 \%$ | Variable | $2,303.85$ |
| Handelsbanken plc |  |  |  | $\mathbf{1 7 , 3 4 4 . 2 8}$ |  |


| Counterparty | Start <br> Date | Maturity Date | Interest Rate | Interest <br> Rate <br> Structure | Principal O/S <br> (£) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Federated | n/a | n/a | 0.2452\% | Variable | 6,470,000.00 |
| Aberdeen | n/a | n/a | 0.2426\% | Variable | 15,000,000.00 |
| 21,470,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| UK Government: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Debt Management Office | 14/09/20 | 05/10/20 | 0.0100\% | Fixed | 120,000,000.00 |
| Debt Management Office | 21/09/20 | 12/10/20 | 0.0100\% | Fixed | 40,000,000.00 |
| Debt Management Office | 28/09/20 | 28/10/20 | 0.0100\% | Fixed | 50,000,000.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 210,000,000.00 |
| Other Local Authorities: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Folkestone and Hythe District | 25/03/20 | 25/03/21 | 1.6500\% | Fixed | 5,000,000.00 |
| South Somerset District Council | 27/03/20 | 26/03/21 | 1.6000\% | Fixed | 5,000,000.00 |
| Telford and Wrekin Borough Council | 25/03/20 | 31/03/21 | 1.6500\% | Fixed | 5,000,000.00 |
| Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council | 27/03/20 | 31/03/21 | 1.6000\% | Fixed | 1,000,000.00 |
| Gwynedd County Council | 30/03/20 | 31/03/21 | 1.6000\% | Fixed | 4,000,000.00 |
| Cheshire West and Chester Council | 31/03/20 | 31/03/22 | 1.8000\% | Fixed | 5,000,000.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 25,000,000.00 |
| Company Loans/Shares: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Milton Keynes Development Partnership LLP | 12/11/19 | 12/11/20 | 2.7700\% | Fixed | 30,000,000.00 |
| YourMK LLP (shares) | 09/08/16 | n/a | 0.0000\% | Fixed | 100.00 |
| YourMK LLP | 09/08/16 | 09/08/22 | 3.8116\% | Variable | 561,205.26 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 30,561,305.26 |
| Property Funds (variable net asset value [VNAV]): |  |  |  |  |  |
| CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund | 30/03/15 |  | 4.3038\% | Variable | 9,699,861.74 |
| CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund | 26/02/16 |  | 4.3038\% | Variable | 4,560,859.19 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 14,260,720.93 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 301,309,370.47 |

6.4. Chart 3 below shows the investment portfolio maturity profile by tenor buckets per category type at $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020:

Chart 3: Investment profile at $\mathbf{3 0}^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 by maturity category \& tenor buckets


## Credit background:

6.5. In addition to credit ratings and market intel, officers monitors price spreads on credit default swaps (CDS) - the market-traded insurance against borrower defaults. By their nature credit ratings are reactive, whereas the CDS market is live and demonstrates confidence in financial institutions in real-time, with sharp or sustained rises seen as an early warning indicator.
6.6. Chart 4 below plots spreads on CDS's over the past two years. After rising sharply in late March, spreads have eased but remained above their pre-crisis levels.

Chart 4: UK Banks 5 Year senior debt CDS spreads

6.7. Although credit rating agencies changed their rating watch outlooks on many UK banks from stable to negative during Q1 - due to upcoming risks to banks' earnings and asset quality during the economic downturn caused by the pandemic - the majority of ratings have been affirmed due to the continuing strong credit profiles of UK banks. However, during Q1 and Q2 2020, banks did make provisions for expected credit losses. As we move into Q3 and Q4, more information will emerge on actual levels of credit losses. This has the potential to cause rating agencies to revisit their ratings later in 2020. These adjustments could be negative or positive, although for context UK banks went into this pandemic with strong balance sheets. As stated in paragraph 2.8 above, the FPC report in August revised down expected credit losses for the banking sector to somewhat less than $£ 80$ bn citing that, in their assessment, banks have buffers of capital more than sufficient to absorb the losses that are likely to arise under the MPC's central projection. The FPC stated that for real stress in the sector, the economic output would need to be twice as bad as the MPC's projection, with unemployment rising to above $15 \%$.
6.8. There is a similar picture for non-UK banks, with being placed on negative watch outlooks but only a small number of actual rating downgrades.
6.9. Stress testing on the Council's indicative counterparties list shows that for a 1 notch downgrade to all Long-Term Ratings from all agencies, 6 counterparties would no longer be considered for new investments. However, a further 17 counterparties would see their suggested durations reigned in but would remain potentially available for use. Note for comparative purposes that this scenario is based on credit ratings alone, overlaying potential movement in CDS spreads may as ever exasperate any restrictions applied.
6.10. Restricting the number of counterparties and duration of investment under consideration as a risk-aversion action is necessary but does consequently severely restrict options available to the Council and rate of return. It is likely therefore in the short-term that the Council's holdings with the UK Government's Debt Management Office (no upper counterparty limit) will continue to remain significant.
6.11. The Council also utilises AAA rated Money Market Funds for short-term liquid cash investments. These pooled funds represent well-diversified, same-day access options with assets under management usually in the tens of billion pounds at any given time from many business sectors, including local authorities. Each fund with assets of more than one billion pounds under management is considered by the Council as comparatively secure as its peers, yet the Council limits investments to up to $£ 15 \mathrm{~m}$ per fund to spread counterparty risk. Officers continue enhanced monitoring of the performance of these funds given the widespread financial market volatility. The difference in return between individual fund remains marginally low, so in this heightened state of alert, added
emphasis is instead being placed on the stability of each fund's underlying total assets.

## Negative investment rates:

6.12. To date, the Council has always achieved a positive return on its investments. While the BoE has indicated it is unlikely to introduce a negative Bank Rate, at least in the next 6 to 12 months, some deposit accounts are already offering negative rates for shorter periods. And with most of the Council's investment portfolio highly liquid, negative returns is a significant risk.
6.13. As part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, the BoE and the Government have provided financial markets and businesses with plentiful access to credit, either directly or through commercial banks. At the same time, the Government has provided large sums of grants to local authorities to help deal with the coronavirus crisis, which temporarily inflated cash balances until those sums were able to be passed on.
6.14. The need to prioritise security of capital and maintain liquidity in these unprecedented times has meant there is a glut of money swilling around at the very short dated range of the market. This has seen several market operators, now including the Debt Management Office, offer zero or negative returns for short term maturities.
6.15. This is not entirely universal just yet. Some high creditworthy financial institutions and money market funds are still offering marginally positive return - the latter by reducing or waived management fees to ensure that net yields for investors remain above zero where possible and practical - but that may not remain the case. Ordinarily there would be little value in the trade-off between keeping investments short and liquid against depositing for an extended period at elevated risk for a marginal return, but this may become necessary as a means of preserving capital.
6.16. Inter-local authority lending and borrowing rates have also severely declined due to the surge in the levels of cash seeking a short-term home, mostly due to many local authorities balancing difficulties over accurately forecasting cashflows and funding requirements against potential for further large-scale injections of cash from Government.

## Externally managed strategic funds:

6.17. The Council invested a cash sum of $£ 15 \mathrm{~m}$ into an externally managed strategic pooled property fund with the CCLA; $£ 10 \mathrm{~m}$ in March 2015 and a further $£ 5 \mathrm{~m}$ in February 2016. Short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations for this
type of investment with the primary objectives instead being regular revenue income and long-term price stability.
6.18. At $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020, the Council's holdings had decreased to $£ 14.261 \mathrm{~m}$ ( $£ 14.288 \mathrm{~m}$ at $30^{\text {th }}$ June), representing a $£ 0.027 \mathrm{~m}$ fall in fair value. Excluding accrued interest, this fair value is $£ 0.739 \mathrm{~m}$ lower than the Councils initial $£ 15.0 \mathrm{~m}$ cash investments, which represents an unrealised loss. The Council has no plans to liquidate this investment and expect the funds value to recover in time.
6.19. In March 2020, CCLA suspended purchase and redemption transactions in direct response to the pervasive effects of Covid-19 coronavirus. Sharp falls in economic activity and relative infrequency of transactions in the property sector mean that it is not possible for the CCLA's valuers to be confident that their valuations will truly reflect prevailing conditions at this time.
6.20. This temporary suspension has now been lifted, but with the ongoing introduction of a redemption notice period of 90 days. This does not have an immediate or significant impact on the Councils investment, which has always been treated its holdings as a strategically long term. During the period of suspension, the Council continued to accrued full dividend returns but received approximately $75 \%$ in cash with the remaining $25 \%$ deferred until later this financial year.
6.21. The CCLA takes a distinct approach to its asset acquisitions in that it does not buy assets simply for short-term gain, but a diversified range of long-term and adaptable assets that could, in most cases, be repurposed. Evidence so far suggests the current impact upon commercial property markets is contained and focused on those already underperforming specific sub-categories like, high street retail. The reality is that retail markets were evolving this way beforehand, and this crisis has simply accelerated those trends. Other than housing, there is high demand for long-term commercial warehousing as well as flexible multipurpose office spaces.
6.22. Officers receive regular updates from the CCLA fund management team. The fund effectively entered this period of global crisis from the impact of coronavirus from a well-managed base risk position, on back of over a decade of market instability since the 2008 financial crisis as well as the more recent and continuing heightened risks surrounding Brexit.

Investments for policy reasons outside of normal treasury management operations:
6.23. Although not classed as treasury management activities per se, the 2017 CIPFA Code now requires the Council to report on investments for policy reasons outside of normal treasury management operations. This includes service
investments for operational and/or regeneration as well as commercial investments made primarily for financial income reasons. These investments typically earn a higher rate of return compared to normal treasury management investments, which reflects the additional risks that the Council is exposed to.
6.24. The Council has advanced a $£ 30.0 \mathrm{~m} 1$-year loan to its wholly owned subsidiary company Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) LLP, used to finance the acquisition of assets from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in $2012 / 13$. The loan rate of $2.77 \%$ was set with reference to State Aid regulations and prevailing market rates. This loan matured in November 2020 and a direct replacement has been agreed under the same terms for a further 1-year at 2.63\% to mature in November 2021.
6.25. The Council has also lent $£ 0.5 \mathrm{~m}$ in tranche payments to its $50 \%$ joint-owned partnership company YourMK LLP. YourMK is a partnership between the Council and Mears Group to deliver regeneration, management of council housing stock, and other development on council land and it is responsible for all Housing Land under the Council. At $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020, the Council's investment holding was valued at $£ 0.561 \mathrm{~m}$, of which $£ 0.061 \mathrm{~m}$ represents an unrealised gain through accruing compound interest since advanced.
6.26. The Council holds a $£ 5.0 \mathrm{~m}$ principal investment (match-funded by external investment) in a National Homelessness Property Fund, the assets of which are for use as housing temporary accommodation in Milton Keynes. Accepting that this investment constitutes a greater risk than traditional treasury management investments, a return of $£ 0.024 \mathrm{~m}$ was made in Q1 this year (awaiting Q2 figures), representing a rate of return of $1.92 \%$. This investment is not shown within the tables and charts above as it was funded through the capital programme and reported through the capital monitoring process.

## Investment income performance:

6.27. Investment income performance against the 3-month London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID), which is the bidding rate at which banks are willing to borrow from each other, is shown in Table 4 below. Income return projections for the financial year are reported through the Budget Monitoring process and although investment returns are lower than expected, the amount of cash the Council holds is higher than anticipated when setting the 20/21 budget, with the two directly offsetting each other.

Table 4: Investment income performance against 3-month LIBID benchmark

| Period | MKC <br> Performance | Benchmark <br> Performance | Difference |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Q1 (Apr-Jun) | $0.94 \%$ | $0.26 \%$ | $+0.68 \%$ |
| Q2 (Jul-Sept) | $0.64 \%$ | $0.11 \%$ | $+0.53 \%$ |
| Mid-Year | $\mathbf{0 . 7 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 0 . 5 7 \%}$ |

## 7. Outlook for the remainder of 2020/21

7.1. Bank Rate is not expected to change from $0.10 \%$ within a forecast horizon ending on $31^{\text {st }}$ March 2023, as the economic recovery is expected to be only gradual and prolonged. Additional monetary loosening through quantitative easing is highly likely.
7.2. As outlined above, negative returns on the Councils investments is a significant risk, and mitigating actions will be taken where possible.
7.3. The medium-term global economic outlook remains very weak. It is likely to be some time before consumer spending patterns recovers to pre-crisis levels due to rises in unemployment, the potential on-going need for virus control measures and the impact on consumer/business confidence. The responses from the BoE, HM Treasury as well as other central banks and governments have been significant and will act to support recovery.
7.4. Gilt yields are expected to remain very low in the medium term. Some shorterterm gilt yields will remain negative or close to zero until growth prospects improve.
7.5. Brexit remains a further prominent economic risk and so far, no agreement has been reached. A no-deal on $31^{\text {st }}$ December could lead to a reduction in economic growth depending on the type of no-deal scenario, setting back the UK's recovery from recession.

## 8. Change of Treasury Advisors

8.1. In August 2020, the Council undertook a competitive market procurement tender to appoint treasury and leasing advisors on a 3-year contract with a possible upto 2-year extension period. The contract has been awarded Link Asset Services.
9. Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits
9.1. It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators are set as part of the Treasury Strategy and Capital Strategy.
9.2. During the quarter the Council has operated within its treasury limits and Prudential Indicators, shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Prudential and Treasury Indicators

| Prudential Indicator | 2020/21 Indicator | Q2 2020/21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Authorised limit for external debt | ----- $£ 770.000 \mathrm{~m}$----- |  |
| Operational boundary for external debt | ----- £740.000m --- |  |
| Gross borrowing | £458.372m | £463.562m |
| Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) | £709.081m | £709.055m |
| Ratio of financing costs to net revenue streams: |  |  |
| HRA | 37.50\% | 37.50\% |
| Limit of fixed interest rates based on net debt | £770.000m | £193.562m |
| Limit of variable interest rates based on net debt | £77.000m | -£31.309m |
| Principal sums invested > 365 days | £75.000m | £19.839m |
| Maturity structure of borrowing limits:- |  |  |
| Under 12 months | Max. 15\% <br> Min. 0\% | 2.2\% |
| 12 months to 2 years | Max. 15\% <br> Min. 0\% | 2.1\% |
| 2 years to 5 years | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Max. 50\% } \\ & \text { Min. 0\% } \end{aligned}$ | 8.6\% |
| 5 years to 10 years | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Max. 50\% } \\ & \text { Min. 0\% } \end{aligned}$ | 14.0\% |
| 10 years and above | Max. 100\% <br> Min. 50\% | 73.1\% |

## DETAILED ECONOMIC COMMENTARY - Q2 2020/21

1. During the quarter ended $30^{\text {th }}$ September 2020 (quarter 3 of 2020):

- There was a quicker-than-expected recovery in GDP in June and July;
- Retail spending rose $4.0 \%$ above its pre-virus level, but the recovery in investment lagged behind;
- There was a second wave of the virus and a tightening in COVID-19 restrictions in September;
- In September, the Chancellor announced further fiscal measures to support the economy;
- Concerns about a second wave and a no deal Brexit weighed on the FTSE 100 and the pound;
- There were divisions on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) over the possible use of negative interest rates;

2. The initial economic recovery appears to have been quicker than anticipated. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose by $2.4 \%$ month-on-month ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{m}$ ) in May as manufacturing and construction work resumed, by $8.6 \% \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ in June as nonessential retail stores reopened, and by $6.6 \% \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ in July as pubs and restaurants reopened. The rise in the all sector Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) in August suggests that recovery continued at a strong pace.
3. Consumer spending appears to have recovered strongly. Retail sales rose by $0.8 \%$ $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{m}$ in August, pushing them $4.0 \%$ above their pre-pandemic level. The miniboom in the housing market meant transactions rose by $28.9 \%$ year-on-year ( $\mathrm{y} / \mathrm{y}$ ) in August. Nationwide house prices rose by $0.9 \% \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ in September, which pushed up the annual rate to $5 \%$ - a four-year high. The Eat Out to Help Out, (EOHO), restaurant discount scheme and pent-up demand, also suggest that nonretail spending did well in August.
4. But this strength largely reflects the Government's fiscal support since March. It is encouraging that the bulk of the 4 million workers that have come off the furlough scheme between May and the end of July have gone back to their jobs rather than into unemployment or inactivity.
5. Even so, there have been signs that households' appetite for credit is waning. Consumer credit rose by only $£ 0.3$ bn in August compared to July’s $£ 1.1$ bn rise. Admittedly, it could be that consumers are just using cash saved during lockdown to finance big ticket purchases. Indeed, the household saving rate surged from $9.6 \%$ in Q1 to a record-high of $29.1 \%$ in Q2. But consumer confidence has also weakened, slipping from -16.6 in August to -17.9 in September.
6. What's more, having fallen by $26.5 \%$ quarter-on-quarter ( $q / q$ ) in Q2, business investment still seems to be well below pre-pandemic levels. According to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) Business Impact of the COVID-19 Survey (BICS), $38 \%$ of businesses said their plans to expand had been scaled back or cancelled since the pandemic. And the Bank of England's Agents survey suggested that investment intentions remain close to their record lows.
7. Meanwhile, there have been worrying signs that activity started to drop in September. Footfall on UK high streets had fallen to $-45 \%$ y/y by mid-September. And despite not even having returned to its pre-crisis level, seasonally adjusted car production dropped by $24 \% \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ in August.
8. Further Government fiscal support was announced in September. The centrepiece of the Winter Economic Plan (WEP) was the six-month long "Job Support Scheme" starting on 1 November. Under the scheme, the Government will pay a maximum of $22 \%$ of worker's salaries and the company pays a minimum of $55 \%$, as long as the employee is working a third of normal hours. The WEP also included an extension of the VAT cut for hospitality/tourism from $20 \%$ to $5 \%$ from 13 January to 31 March. It is estimated these new measures will probably cost around $£ 5$ bn, bringing the total cost of the Government’s direct fiscal measures to about $£ 220$ bn ( $10 \%$ of GDP 2019).
9. The mounting fiscal cost of the crisis is being reflected in public finance figures. The Government borrowed $£ 35.9$ bn in August, leaving borrowing in the year to date at $£ 173.5$ bn (the highest cash figure on record, with seven months of the financial year still to go - the previous record was $£ 158.3$ bn in 2009/10). Add in the effects of the weak economy and borrowing could end up at $£ 370$ bn ( $18.4 \%$ of GDP) in total in 2020/21.
10. But the new package is unlikely to fully offset the hit to GDP and employment from the Government's COVID-19 restrictions. Indeed, the UK has begun to grapple with a second wave of coronavirus infections.
11. The Bank of England are expected to ease monetary policy further. Admittedly, the sharp drop in inflation (CPI) from $+1.0 \%$ in July to $+0.2 \%$ in August, due to the effects of the cut in VAT for hospitality/tourism and August's EOHO restaurant discount scheme, probably represents the low point for inflation. We expect inflation (CPI) to have risen to $+0.6 \%$ in September and it could temporarily rise to $2.0 \%$ at the end of 2021. But the big picture is that it will be a few years before the economy is strong enough to sustain inflation (CPI) at the Bank of England's $2 \%$ target.
12. In its September minutes, the MPC commented that it "had been briefed on the Bank's plans to explore how a negative Bank Rate could be implemented effectively". MPC member Silvana Tenreyro noted the "encouraging" evidence
on the use of negative rates in Japan and the euro-zone. But Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey and others have talked down the prospect. So, for the next 6-12 months, it is likely that further quantitative easing will remain the tool of choice and that another $£ 250$ bn could be used over the next year, significantly more than previously forecast.
13. There are two key downside risks to this outlook:
i. The first of these is the possibility that restrictions are tightened much further to contain the spread of coronavirus. This would also increase the possibility that the Bank of England has to do more at a later stage.
ii. The second risk is a no deal Brexit at the end of the transition period on $31^{\text {st }}$ December 2020.
14. The concerns about the consequences for the economy from a second wave of COVID-19 and a no deal Brexit have reduced the FTSE 100 almost back to May's level and weakened the pound from $\$ 1.35$ to $\$ 1.28$. Some spreads of corporate bonds over gilt yields have started to tick up. With COVID-19 and a no deal Brexit risks rising, the risks that the FTSE 100 will rebound to its pre-crisis level by the end of 2022 and that the pound will climb back to $\$ 1.35$ if there is a Brexit deal are firmly on the downside.
15. In the euro-zone, there is further evidence that the economic recovery is grinding to a halt. This has resulted in short time working policies being extended in Europe's Big Four until the end of the year at a minimum. And there is a good chance that the European Central Bank will provide additional stimulus soon.
16. The continued economic recovery in the US in the face of its second wave in June and July has been impressive, but GDP remains below pre-virus levels. And while the Federal Bank adopted "a flexible form of average inflation targeting" in August, it has offered no hints it is contemplating adding more stimulus soon. But the calls for more stimulus may grow louder if the recovery slows, particularly if Congress cannot agree on more fiscal support.

Annex J - List of Virements Posted in Quarter 2-2020/21

| Service Area | Note | Permanent Virement | Temporary Virement |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | £'000 | £'000 |
| Adult Services | Pay Increase | 556 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 202 | 0 |
|  | CLT Award vouchers | 0 | 2 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | $(1,024)$ |
|  | Moving P4-P12 budget for pos no. 335000011 | 17 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Children's Services | Pay Increase | 659 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 621 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | $(1,368)$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Environment \& Property | Pay Increase | 260 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 88 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (785) |
|  | 12 hrs caretaker back to resources | (8) | 0 |
|  | Data comm (PECUA) sim | 0 | 0 |
|  | Electricity costs | 6 | 0 |
|  | Highways term contract | (15) | 0 |
|  | MKDP Income removal | 12 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Corporate Codes | Pay Increase | $(2,082)$ | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | $(1,509)$ | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | 4,322 |
|  | CLT Award vouchers | 0 | (2) |
|  | Economic Development restructure savings | 54 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  <br> Resources - MKC | Pay Increase | 71 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 86 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (96) |
|  | 12 hrs caretaker back to resources | 8 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Growth, Economy and Culture | Pay Increase | 92 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 71 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (497) |
|  | Electricity costs | (2) | 0 |
|  | Grant budget for DMK contribution- transfer from Economic Development | 20 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Housing \& Regeneration | Pay Increase | 19 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 7 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (161) |
|  |  |  |  |
| Law \& Governance | Pay Increase | 58 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 46 | 0 |


|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (70) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LGSS | Pay Increase | 293 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 327 | 0 |
| Policy, Insight \& Communications | Pay Increase | 66 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 57 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (318) |
|  | Moving P4-P12 budget for pos no. 335000011 | (17) | 0 |
| Strategy \& Futures | Pay Increase | 8 | 0 |
|  | Pension Rate Increase | 3 | 0 |
|  | Removal of Non-essential spend budgets | 0 | (4) |
|  | Move grant budget for DMK contribution to Art | (20) | 0 |
|  | Moving Core budget as part of management restructure savings | (54) | 0 |
| Total |  | 0 | 0 |

## Collection Fund

1.1. The Collection Fund includes all income generated from council tax and business rates that is due in the year, including arrears, from council taxpayers and ratepayers.
1.2. Collection rates for both Council Tax and Business Rates have continued to fall this year compared to 2019/20, although the drop has slowed. At the end of September 2020 the Council Tax collection rate was $56.68 \%$, down by $1.34 \%$ from this time last year ( $£ 2.1 \mathrm{~m}$ drop). For business rates the collection rate was $52.91 \%$, down by $3.45 \%$ from last year ( $£ 4.8 \mathrm{~m}$ drop).
1.3. Council Tax -The latest 2020/21 forecast shows a projected in-year deficit of $£ 5.407 \mathrm{~m}$ of which $£ 4.590 \mathrm{~m}$ will be MKC's share. This is due to the estimated impact of COVID-19 on collection rates and higher Local Council Tax Support costs.

Table 1 - Council Tax Income - September 2020

|  | Q1 | Q2 | Movement |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  | $\mathbf{£ m}$ | $\mathbf{£ m}$ |
| Council Tax Collection Fund <br> Deficit | 7.485 | 5.407 | (2.078) |
| Milton Keynes Share | 6.318 | 4.590 | (1.728) |

1.4. Business Rates - The Council's budget for retained business rates income for $2020 / 21$ is $£ 54.264 \mathrm{~m}$. Based on our latest forecast it is currently projected that the Council's actual share of retained business rates will be $£ 6.000 \mathrm{~m}$ lower due to expected higher non-collection rates and lower than budgeted growth.

Table 2 - Business Rates Income - September 2020

| MKC Share | Budget <br> $\mathbf{£ m}$ | Forecast <br> $\mathbf{£ m}$ | Movement <br> $\mathbf{£ m}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Business Rates | 54.264 | 48.264 | 6.000 |

1.5. The above forecast takes into account the impact of s31 grants for reliefs funded by Government. This includes s31 grant for the expanded relief scheme for the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors following COVID-19.
1.6. The Government has recently announced a change in regulations to allow any collection fund deficits in 2020/21 to be spread across three future years. Existing regulations required deficits to be paid back fully in the following year.
ANNEX L - WAIVERS

| Financial year | 2020/21 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Option 1 - Waiver From CPR rules |  | Option 2 - Reported Non Compliance |  | Option 3 - Request to use Single Supplier |  |
| Directorate | Number of Waivers | Value of Waivers £ | Number of Waivers | Value of Waivers £ | Number of Waivers | Value of Waivers £ |
| Adult Social Care | 0 | £0 | 1 | £460,000 | 1 | £31,403.77 |
| Public Health | 1 | £450 | 0 | £0 | 1 | £47,595 |
| Children's Services | 1 | £63,550 | 1 | £0 | 1 | £24,320 |
| Policy, Insight \& Communications | 1 | £49,000 | 2 | £95,000 | 1 | £24,012 |
| Strategy and Futures | 1 | £11,994 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Housing and Regeneration | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Growth, Economy and Culture | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Environment and Property | 1 | £4,700 | 0 | £0 | 1 | £2,000 |
| Resources - Retained MKC | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Resources - LGSS | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Law \& Governance | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Total | 5 | £129,694 | 4 | £555,000 | 5 | £129,330.77 |

[^3]Annex M
Tariff Programme Changes

| Scheme | Resource Allocation |  |  |  |  |  | Spend Approval |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { 2020/21 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2021/22 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2022/23 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2023/24 } \\ \text { fm } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2024/25 } \\ \text { fm } \end{gathered}$ | Total <br> fm | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2020/21 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2021 / 22 \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2022 / 23 \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2023 / 24 \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2024 / 25 \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Total fm |
| Tariff Programme as per September 2020 Cabinet | 38.203 | 33.467 | 18.666 | 13.026 | 10.957 | 114.319 | 27.413 | 9.012 | 4.552 | 0.164 | 0.000 | 41.141 |
| New amendments: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wavendon Playing Fields | 0.170 | 0.700 | 0.075 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.945 | 0.170 | 0.700 | 0.075 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.945 |
| Total Tariff Programme | 38.373 | 34.167 | 18.741 | 13.026 | 10.957 | 115.264 | 27.583 | 9.712 | 4.627 | 0.164 | 0.000 | 42.086 |

Annex N
Capital Programme Changes - Revised 15th December 2020

| Scheme | Resource Allocation |  |  |  |  |  | Spend Approval |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2020/21 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2021/22 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2022 / 23 \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2023 / 24 \\ \mathrm{fm} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { Future years } \\ f m \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \mathrm{fm} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { 2020/21 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2021/22 } \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2022 / 23 \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2023 / 24 \\ \mathrm{fm} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { fm } \end{aligned}$ |
| Capital Programme Cabinet 1 September 2020 | 130.685 | 109.560 | 53.608 | 47.246 | 17.190 | 358.288 | 130.685 | 47.939 | 1.478 | 0.002 | 180.103 |
| Amendments to the programme: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hanslope Primary School Expansion - agreed by DD 20 October 2020 | (0.113) | 0.575 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.462 | (0.113) | 0.575 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.462 |
| Fullers Slade Regeneration | 0.399 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.399 | 0.399 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.399 |
| 5 Year Housing Capital Investment Programme | 1.775 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.775 | 1.775 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.775 |
| Communal Heating | (0.207) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.207) | (0.207) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.207) |
| Purchase of Properties (Council Dwellings) | 5.500 | (5.500) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 5.500 | (5.500) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Housing Infrastructure Fund (highways) | 2.865 | 3.216 | 53.050 | 20.126 | 0.000 | 79.257 | 2.865 | 3.216 | 53.050 | 20.126 | 79.257 |
| Tattenhoe Park Community Wellness Hub | 0.146 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.146 | 0.146 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.146 |
| Emerson Valley Sports Pavillion Remedial works | (0.024) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.024) | (0.024) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | (0.024) |
| New Projects: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 Bed Acquisitions | 4.539 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 4.539 | 4.539 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 4.539 |
| Granby Court and Everglade House | 0.621 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.621 | 0.621 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.621 |
| Mellish Court \& The Gables | 2.891 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 2.891 | 2.891 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 2.891 |
| Fishermead - Modular | 6.535 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 6.535 | 6.535 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 6.535 |
| Fairfields Area 11 Allotment Site | 0.243 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.243 | 0.243 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.243 |
| Bletchley Fire Station Site Clearances/Intervention | 0.200 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.200 |
| Bletchley to Blue Lagoon Redway links | 0.671 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.671 | 0.671 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.671 |
| VMWare Enterprise agreement | 0.417 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.417 | 0.417 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.417 |

## Cabinet report

## 15 December 2020

Milton Keynes Council Plan - Progress Report

| Name of Cabinet Member | Councillor Pete Marland <br> Leader of the Council |
| :--- | :--- |
| Report sponsor | Sarah Gonsalves <br> Director of Policy, Insight and Communications |


| Exempt / confidential / not <br> for publication | No |
| :--- | :--- |
| Council Plan reference | All Council Plan commitments |
| Wards affected | All wards |

## Executive summary

This report presents the quarterly update on progress on the Milton Keynes Council Plan 2016-2022 covering the period September 2020 - November 2020.

1. Decision/s to be made
1.1 That the progress being made on the Council Plan 2016-2022 be noted.
2. Why is the decision needed?
2.1 The revised Council Plan 2016-22 was approved at Council on 17 June 2020. The Delivery Plan, which forms part of the revised Council Plan, sets out actions that cover this municipal year. It is important to monitor the Delivery Plan and update progress to councillors, stakeholder and residents. The attached Annex contains a detailed overview of progress covering the period September 2020 November 2020.
3. Implications of the decision

| Financial | x | Human rights, equalities, diversity | x |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Legal | x | Policies or Council Plan | x |
| Communication | x | Procurement | x |
| Energy Efficiency | x | Workforce | x |

## 4. Alternatives

None.

## List of annexes

Annex A - Milton Keynes Council Plan 2016-22 Delivery Plan progress June - August 2020.

## ANNEX A

## A BALANCED BUDGET

## OUR BUDGET COMMITMENTS - WE WILL:

1 Set a balanced budget, which reflects the reality of funding availability, increasing demand and Covid-19 recovery.

We have made good progress with only 7 Rapid Service Reviews now left to complete (100 in total). These are linked to agreed savings of $£ 250 k$ as part of the 2020/21 budget.

The budget for 2020/21 is expected to be delivered with in-year savings through the removal / deferring of non-essential spend across service budgets. This projection takes account of the projected deficit on the Collection Fund where we expect a shortfall in both Council Tax and Business Rates income. We are on track to produce a balanced budget for the $22^{\text {nd }}$ December Delegated Decision meeting and following the Spending Review now have more certainty over our likely funding position for 2021/22. The draft budget has been revised to reflect the impact of COVID-19. The Local Government Finance Settlement is now not expected to be published until week commencing 14 December 2020.

## Implement the lead council model resulting from the end of LGSS.

Progress to create the new governance and operating model for shared services by the end of 2020 has been made. The staff consultation process has now closed, and this work is being taken forward with draft governance arrangement due to be agreed by 15 November 2020.

Revenue and Benefits are reviewing the future arrangements with the Western Northampton Unitary council with a view to agreeing a revised partnership model by December 2020. West Northamptonshire have now appointed their s151 Officer and a meeting has been scheduled in October for discussions to take place on future arrangements from April 2021.
3 Maintain reserves at a sustainable and prudent level.
We have implemented measures in 2020/21 to control spend including a review of all nonessential budgets and a new process for recruitment approvals. These measures will deliver in year savings (to be confirmed at December Cabinet) which together with the government funding for COVID-19 will enable the Council to maintain a sufficient level of reserves during $2020 / 21$. All reserves were reviewed, the result of this were reported to the September Cabinet.
Fight for fair funding for Councils through the Local Government Association.
The Council is actively lobbying government through various channels. The Director of Finance and Resources is a member of three professional networks (Association of Local Authority Treasurers, Society of Unitary Treasurers and Society of Municipal Treasurers) which has been working with the LGA, MHCLG and Treasury to ensure that the issues within Local Government are understood and to try and secure resources to manage the impact of COVID-19 and into the new spending review.

## COVID-19 RECOVERY

## OUR COMMITMENTS ON COVID-19 RECOVERY - WE WILL:

5 Review our structures and budget to ensure appropriate service approaches and controls on expenditure to deliver the priorities of the council.

As part of the Rapid Service Reviews we have been looking at staffing models. Planned restructuring activity has continued (for example in homelessness and customer services). Redeployment has been used where appropriate in the first part of the year where colleagues were unable to carry out their normal duties.

6
Develop flexible service plans to ensure each council service has a clear, safe and flexible operating model that can adapt quickly to a changing national environment.

These were all developed in the first half of the year, and are reviewed as required.
7
Support social care and care homes to ensure our older and vulnerable people continue to receive a good level of service.

Since the start of the outbreak, the Quality and Compliance Team (QCT) has been the single point of contact for providers support/cascading information/ collecting feedback. The team regularly contact around 80 providers (care homes, home care, supported living, day care and other commissioned services). Calls are made daily/weekly, based on level of risk considering:

- $\quad$ Staffing shortage or sickness
- Service Users
- PPE levels
- Vacancies level
- Any other reasons for concern

Any immediate risks are acted upon (e.g. shortage of PPE items) to ensure service delivery without interruption; Ongoing distribution of any Covid-19 related guidance from NHS, Public Health and CCG; Ongoing sharing of information with senior management and partners; Financial support was introduced by MKC to support the care market, based on impact caused by the outbreak.
8
Develop a Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan to support our economy, understand the support needs of different sectors and prioritise a green recovery.

The $£ 2.25$ million Economic Recovery Plan was developed quickly and approved by Cabinet on 1 September. We have worked with the business community and other partners to create a focused programme including urgent activity to support businesses and help people into work, and dedicated action to support young people and women in Milton Keynes.

The Economic Recovery Plan also includes longer-term activity to build confidence and secure investment in the city and drive green economic growth and the innovation economy.
Work with local partners to develop a support package for small businesses.
The Economic Recovery Plan has developed a support package for small businesses, including initiatives such as subsidised membership of the Federation for Small Businesses

|  | (FSB) and a comprehensive '\#ShopLocalMK' campaign, promoting MK's high street and <br> local centres, which secured the support of Ritual a contactless order and pay service. <br> Work is ongoing across Council departments to support small businesses, including work <br> with businesses and parish and town councils to support high street recovery and <br> administration and payment of restriction grants through the Business Rates team. |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Work with SEMLEP and businesses to develop a practical skills programme to retrain and <br> reskill unemployed and under-employed people. <br> We have continued to work with SEMLEP and local businesses to develop a complementary <br> practical skills programme to retrain and reskill unemployed and under employed people <br> within MK. Through our Economic Recovery Plan we have funded MK College to establish a <br> city-wide 'Restart network' to offer a range of individualised and practical support to help <br> those most in need back into the workplace. |
| $\mathbf{1 1}$ | Review the NEP to ensure it is fit for purpose. <br> A review has been undertaken with the findings and recommendations to be implemented <br> over the coming months. |
| $\mathbf{1 2}$ | Ensure local businesses are prepared for any changes that result from the end of the <br> transition period as Britain leaves the EU. |
| $\mathbf{1 3}$ | We are working with the MK Business Resilience Forum and SEMLEP to continue to provide <br> information and guidance to MK's businesses to prepare for leaving the EU trade zone. |
| Review our Domestic Abuse services to ensure they are effective and introduce a <br> Sanctuary Scheme so victims can remain safely in their own homes. |  |
| The Milton Keynes Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2020-2025 has been developed <br> with extensive consultation with partners and victims of abuse. The Healthy Relationships <br> Programme have adapted well to working within the COVID-19 restrictions by offering <br> clients 121 support through telephone, video call and supported online access to the <br> freedom programme. Working this way, we have been able to provide continued support <br> and offered approx. 360 sessions (average 8 per client) which is approximately 540 hours of <br> support. A Sanctuary Scheme is being set up to be introduced in January 2021. |  |

## ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## OUR COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE ACTION- WE WILL:

Produce a clear action roadmap to hit our target of a carbon neutral MK by 2030, implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Change Task \& Finish Report.

We have updated the Sustainability Strategy which will be considered by Cabinet in December which includes an energy prospectus, a route map to carbon neutrality, and the formation of the energy and carbon hub. Local Partnerships (LP_ and ENGIE are supporting

Eight energy projects are in progress. We were successful in the MHCLG bid for $£ 400 \mathrm{~K}$ to support delivery of energy improvement measures at Granby Court and Everglade House.

| 15 | Establish a clean energy-hub to produce cheap, clean and green energy. <br> See above. We are also pursuing the development of Wolverton 'Waste Resource Campus' which offers the potential for energy to be produced and used via private electricity wire for Council assets/vehicles (waste, highways) and perhaps also public buses. Solar panels will be installed onto MKWRP to feed into the wire. We are engaging with processing sector to potentially recycle locally, e.g. plastics. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 16 | Work with the Woodland Trust to create 50 acres of new woodland, wetland and wildflower corridors. <br> Wildflowers on grid roads have been planted in October 2020. Funding process with Woodland Trust currently being compiled - plan to deliver more woodland linked to the community orchards and mini forests. <br> We also plan to support an environmental apprenticeship scheme for 8-10 participants to build skills in practical conservation and landscaping management. |
| 17 | Establish a Citizens Action Panel to ensure full public participation in climate action and scrutiny of our climate work. <br> We have moved away from a Citizens Action Panel primarily due to the difficulties in having meetings during the pandemic. We are investigating an online engagement portal where residents can make their point, vote in favour of options and have the ability to direct small amounts of funding towards local charities. This is a similar method used across the charitable sector e.g. Tesco where shoppers put tokens in their chosen charity box. |
| 18 | Work with town and parish councils to enable 200 green roof installations on existing bus shelters. <br> Structural surveys have been conducted on a sample of shelters. Suitable shelters are now being identified and quotes will be requested. Funding ( $£ 70 \mathrm{k}$ ) made available through the 20/21 budget process should still be able to deliver a small number of green roofs as a pilot, and the programme of introducing solar roofs will continue. |
| 19 | Support the delivery of a fully electrified East-West Rail, and continue to promote better connectivity and infrastructure across the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc. <br> Through the recently published (October 2020) Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus we are showing support for electrification of East West rail. We are reinforcing this through meetings with DfT, East West Rail Company and EEH. Discussions are linked to housing delivery such as SEMK site. |
| 20 | Improve public transport, by improving access and provision to services, and continuing to investigate creating a council-owned municipal public transport company. <br> We have continued to provide financial support for public transport through the first six months of the pandemic (protected contractor payments). The MK e-scooter trial has been successfully launched. Covid 19 Recovery Plan Sustainable Transport package ( $£ 500 \mathrm{k}$ ) developed and being implemented. We have also supported two bids to, and delivery of, the DfT's Emergency Active Travel Fund. |

$\left.\begin{array}{|c|l|}\hline \mathbf{2 1} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Start an ongoing and planned resurfacing programme for redways, and investigate more } \\ \text { provision of safe cycling and walking space. }\end{array} \\ \hline \mathbf{2 2} & \begin{array}{l}\text { As part of additional funding provided through the 20/21 budget process, the existing } \\ \text { capital programme, a successful Towns Fund mini award for the Blue Lagoon area, and the } \\ \text { Emergency Active Travel Fund tranche two (subject to award), we are on track to deliver } \\ \text { c£1.1 million of new redways and c£2.3 million of redway surface maintenance, new } \\ \text { signage, lighting and cycling initiatives. }\end{array} \\ \hline \mathbf{2 3} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Provide additional safe bike storage spaces across the city. } \\ \text { We are progressing schemes to improve the take up of cycling. A number of initiatives are } \\ \text { being implemented including 60 new cycle racks that will be installed on high streets and } \\ \text { 320 new secure cycle racks at Station Square, under the High Streets and Emergency Active } \\ \text { Travel (EATF) tranche one funds. }\end{array} \\ \hline \mathbf{2 4} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Continue to support the development for a Mass Rapid Transport system. } \\ \text { We continue to lobby for Mass Rapid Transit infrastructure funding from government } \\ \text { through the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus (published October 2020). }\end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{l}\text { Campaign for an MK Transport Authority with powers to co-ordinate, regulate and } \\ \text { franchise public transport in the city. }\end{array} \\ \text { Continue to lobby through the LGA. } \\ \text { Commence work to explore greater use of existing tools within the Bus Services Act 2017, } \\ \text { including Advanced and Enhanced Partnerships by March 2021. }\end{array}\right\}$

## A CLEANER MILTON KEYNES

## OUR COMMITMENTS TO MAKE MK A CLEANER PLACE - WE WILL:

25 Cut fly-tipping by 60\% across the city, naming and shaming those responsible.
Since 1 April 2020, we have investigated 859 illegal dumping offences (incl. a small no. of trade waste and domestic 'bins out early' issues). This can be compared to 637 offences over the same period the year before (an increase of $35 \%$.)

Of the 859 offences, so far this financial year, we have 317 successful resolutions ranging from advice letters sent, through Legal Notices, Fixed Pens, cautions and files for prosecution. We have 156 waste offences as open investigations at this time.

We have six fly tipping cases backed up in Magistrates Court and a further two cases going by the end of this week. We've had 12 Fly Tipping FPNs paid this year. A further four are awaiting payment or under investigation.
Reduce the rat population in the city centre and surrounding estates.
We have successfully organised for a new local provider (Luton Council) to start on site eradication and monitoring in Fishermead, Conniburrow and Oldbrook in October (using $£ 100 k$ from Annex W) and Coffee Hall and Netherfield (Annex W $£ 40$ k) in November. Work is ongoing to look to HRA to support new bins, bins stores and landscaping to reduce food sources and habitats.

| $\mathbf{2 7}$ | Cut litter by installing new bins on high streets, in local centres and in litter hotspots. <br> 25 Big Belly Smart bins have now been installed in CMK and Station Square and are in use. <br> 50 new dual litter bins have also been successfully installed in local centres and in local <br> hotspots. Another three Big Belly Bins are shortly to be installed. |
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| $\mathbf{2 8}$ | Crackdown on dog owners who don't clean up after their pets. <br> Public Space Protection Order for dog fouling has been passed across all of Milton Keynes. <br> Training has been offered to Parish Council enforcement officers for Fixed Penalty Notices. |
| $\mathbf{2 9}$ | Review the outcome of the wheelie-bin collection trial, protecting weekly residual waste <br> collections, increasing recycling and reducing waste being sent to landfill. <br> Waste Collection Trial on track and progressing with an estimated completion date of <br> February 2021. A delegated decision is scheduled for the waste consultation 13 October. |
| $\mathbf{3 0}$ | Deliver better waste and landscaping services and investigate a mutually owned enterprise <br> to deliver future services. <br> Commissioning 2023 is underway for assets and services. Parish devolution being reviewed. |
| $\mathbf{3 1}$ | Continue to eliminate the use of single use plastics at Milton Keynes Council and in the <br> wider city. <br> We are focusing on promoting no unnecessary use of single use plastic with education <br> partners and schools. <br> Proposal to migrate to wheeled bins will potentially save up to 15.6 million pieces of single <br> use plastic from 2023. |
| $\mathbf{3 2}$ | Continue to ensure high levels of pothole repairs and road maintenance. <br> We are delivering the additional COVID-19 highways asset enhancement and pothole <br> funding in year and to budget. <br> Proposals for new asset management system are being developed with testing and <br> evaluation of A.l and inspection system now complete. New surveying techniques should <br> add value and capacity to inspection regimes. The data will be used to optimise <br> maintenance schemes to address structural defects and capital maintenance programmes. |

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES

## OUR COMMITMENTS ON STRONGER COMMUNITIES - WE WILL:

33 Take back control from developers, progressing a shared vision for the future of the City with MK Futures 2050 and securing proper funding for growth through a Housing Deal.

MK Futures 2050 Strategy is being revised and updated following public engagement and our COVID-19 review. Final strategy sign-off is planned for Council on 20 January 2021
(following Cabinet on 15 December).
Discussions are underway with MHCLG and Homes England about potential partnerships for delivery of MK Futures 2050.

| 34 | Progress Plan:MK2 to plan the growth for MK properly, and include appropriate zero carbon housing mix policies that address the needs of Milton Keynes. <br> We are currently re-evaluating the position on progressing Plan:MK2 in light of the Planning White Paper. This includes reviewing the evidence required to determine which pieces of evidence should go ahead now and those that should be paused until we have some confidence about the impact of the governments proposed changes to reduce costly work that may be abortive. |
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| 35 | Ban poor quality office conversions in CMK. <br> We are progressing the office to residential conversions Article 4 direction. A public consultation has been completed and delegated decision being prepared. If agreed, measures could come into full effect in July 2021 (the later date would be to avoid significant compensation claims). |
| 36 | Campaign to ensure proper access for all to GP, dental and mental health services, including ensuring proper community health infrastructure and hospital facilities. <br> We have successfully delivered the $£ 9.5 \mathrm{M}$ Whitehouse Health Facility in the Western Expansion Area, as part of the Tariff funded programme for the area and agreed terms with the NHS for them to offer services from the building from 1 December 2020. The contracts on the Brooklands Health Centre are now also finalised, with a mix of primary care services, including some elective surgery operating from the site. <br> We are continuing to take an active role in the local health system, supporting bids for further capital investment. |
| 37 | Increase CCTV to crackdown on anti-social behaviour. <br> We have now agreed a process for camera deployment with TVP, with all four cameras currently being used on projects across MK. |
| 38 | Reduce knife crime with an early years prevention scheme. <br> We have now completed the funding agreement on two separate knife crime early intervention schemes with MK Safety Centre as part of the 100k committed in the 20/21 budget process. Further targeted interventions being scoped, to be agreed with knife crime task and finish group. |
| 39 | Tackle drug gangs and stop exploitation by supporting the Youth Offending Team to reduce re-offending and taking action on aggressive street begging. <br> Knife Crime prevention and exploitation is being progressed through the development of an Exploitation Hub with closer and more frequent sharing of intelligence between children's services and Thames Valley Police. <br> New 'Don't fund addiction' campaign materials has been developed and rolled out at regular begging places, including Marks and Spencers in central Milton Keynes. |
| 40 | Support the regeneration of the Agora Centre, Wolverton. <br> A planning application is being prepared for additional parking at St Georges Way which is critical in getting the Agora scheme moving forward. |


| $\mathbf{4 1}$ | Bring forward plans to improve Station Square. <br> We are preparing a Station Square Strategic Framework with MKDP that will help enable <br> MKDP to secure a development partner. A $£ £ 100 K$ public art commission has been scoped <br> and is out to tender with 136 expressions of interest to date. |
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| $\mathbf{4 2}$ | Bring forward plans to improve CMK market. <br> We are working with MKDP to finalise the proposals for the improvements to the CMK <br> market and working up the project plan to progress this and prepare to secure funding, <br> including from external sources (eg preparing future bid to SEMLEP). |


|  | TACKLING INEQUALITY AND POVERTY |
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| OUR COMMITMENTS TO MAKING MK A FAIRER PLACE - WE WILL: |  |
| 43 | Cut child poverty by $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ by 2025, turning the report of the Child Poverty Commission into positive action. <br> Child Poverty Commission report has been drafted and is now with the Commission for final comment with the plan for it to go to December 2020 Cabinet as a starting point. |
| 44 | Ensure no child goes hungry, ensuring proper support for free school meals, holiday food provision and organisations such as the Food Bank. <br> We have set aside a significant investment of $£ 200,000$ in MK Food Bank so far this year, including providing cash and in-kind support, including free use of warehouse facilities at Saxon Court. This has led to over 9,000 food parcels being distributed. Other local action has continued and has included 8,500 free lunches distributed through our children's centres, targeting young children from low income families, particularly two-year-old funded children. <br> Further initiatives are currently in development to be launched in December and beyond. |
| 45 | Provide real practical support to tackle inequality and poverty directly and through our relationships with community groups. <br> Practical action has included working with LEAP through the delivery of the European City of Sport 2020 to distribute 400 physical activity equipment packs to disadvantaged families in Milton Keynes. We have also worked with Gateway Foundation to help 200 families benefit from things like free bikes for children in need. Further initiatives are outlined in other sections. |
| 46 | Ensure every school rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by 2024, pushing poorly performing schools to do better. <br> We have maintained a focus on school improvement over the last six months, with a focus on challenges like remote teaching. There has been increased liaison with schools and education Leaders through COVID-19 and new local self-evaluation framework to help improve school effectiveness was introduced in September 2020. |
| 47 | Create a local council-led co-operative trust to take over poorly performing schools. <br> Consider how this can be progressed with DfE and Schools Commissioner. |


| $\mathbf{4 8}$ | Continue to ensure good levels of school places as the city grows, with appropriate levels <br> of Special Educational Needs provision. <br> The School Place Planning Team continues to ensure the growth in the secondary sector is <br> met and the primary sector can adjust according to its projected intake demand. A review <br> has also been undertaken with school SEND leaders with a new Primary inclusion process in <br> place to reflect Secondary sector processes and to ensure adequate placement and <br> resource sufficiency to meet children's needs. |
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| $\mathbf{4 9}$ | Provide more funding to the Youth Information Service (YIS) as agreed in the 2020/21 <br> budget. <br> The funding has been provided as set out in the 2020/21 budget. |
| $\mathbf{5 0}$ | Prioritise support for looked after children and care leavers, and continue our work to <br> increase the number of MK foster carers and adoptive parents. |
| Fostering recruitment campaigns have continued but this work has been impacted by <br> COVID-19. A new recruitment strategy for carers being developed and permanency through <br> adoption increased. The Corporate Parenting Panel has been refreshed and is making good <br> progress. An Ofsted inspection in October 2020 was positive about improvements in this <br> area. |  |
| $\mathbf{5 1}$ | Support becoming a Dementia Friendly city, to improve the lives of those most in need of <br> help. <br> We are preparing a guidance note for new developments. |
| $\mathbf{5 2}$ | Become an accredited REAL Living Wage city. <br> Engage with employers across the city to encourage them to become a Real living wage <br> employer <br> Seek funding from Government for the development of MK:U. <br> The business case created with Cranfield University has been successfully submitted to <br> government ahead of the Spending Review deadline and lobbying has intensified. <br> Meanwhile $£ 2.2$ million of funding has been secured from SEMLEP for educational <br> acceleration in digital skills plus $£ 2.4$ million for smart city living lab and we continue to <br> support the work to locate this facility in Central Milton Keynes. |


|  | AFFORDABLE |
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| OUR COMMITMENTS TO MAKE MK AFFORDABLE FOR ALL - WE WILL: |  |
| $\mathbf{5 4}$ | Create a council-owned housing development company to build genuinely affordable <br> housing. <br> The production of an outline business case has been completed. Agreement has been <br> reached through the MKDP board and the cabinet to now progress to the development of <br> the full business case, with a view to this being completed by the end of the financial year. |
| $\mathbf{5 5}$ | Build an Eco-village of council and genuinely affordable homes for local families, using <br> land at Tickford Farm to build a high standard housing development. |


|  | Resolution to grant an outline planning permission was given in September. Work to secure a development partner to effect delivery is underway. Outcome likely to tie in with Local Housing Company work. <br> We are currently producing a design code and accompanying brief which will include requirements to help deliver on the 'eco-village'/sustainability aspirations of the development. |
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| 56 | Introduce a private landlord scheme to promote and reward best practice in the private sector and get tough with the worst. <br> We are looking at the practicalities of introducing a virtual landlord forum where we will be inviting partners such as Bucks Fire and Rescue Service, the forum will include training for landlords, sharing ideas and good practice. The first forum will take place in March 2021. <br> We are introducing proactive and targeted projects to identify new HMOs that require a licence, service accessibility for private tenants, tackle empty homes and ensure enforcement action is taken where necessary. The first project will commence in November 2020. |
| 57 | Develop an improved long-term plan to tackle rough-sleeping, building on Housing First and investigating a daytime and rehabilitation facility to help those with challenging issues. <br> We have made good progress. We made a successful application for funding from MHCLG and Homes England ( $£ 1.7 \mathrm{~m}$ ) to purchase additional housing units and fund support services. <br> We have commissioned new services to prevent homelessness, including a new debt advice service with Citizens Advice and are now moving towards mediation for young people under threat of homelessness. A bid for funding to enhance drug and alcohol services to help people who are or have been homeless has also been submitted. <br> Following the introduction of a daily temporary accommodation and homelessness prevention fund panel the level of households in temporary accommodation is moving towards being more sustainable, both in terms of stock and costs. We are also tackling the issues around temporary accommodation including rationalising lease arrangements and developing new models to deliver efficient allocation of temporary accommodation. |
| 58 | Campaign to end Section 21 evictions. <br> Section 21 evictions were stayed for 7 months. Following the stay, Section 21 eviction processes have been amended, and new notices to be issued for 6 months. This may be a good time to influence further national policy decisions in this area to reduce homelessness from the private sector. |
| 59 | Progress regeneration on the Lakes Estate and Fullers Slade, and begin conversations with other areas on community-led estate renewal projects. <br> Planning application (Phase A and B) has been developed for the Lakes Estate which there has been a resolution to grant planning permission by DCC on 8 October 2020. The application has a recommendation to approve. We are in order to present a report to Cabinet in December requesting spend approval in order to procure contractors to start construction. |


|  | We are working to finalise the appointment of the professional team for Fullers Slade in <br> order to draw up the planning permission submission in 2021. <br> Governance and procedural rules are being finalised to introduce Estate Renewal Forums on <br> both the Lakes and Fuller Slade in the near future. Three new Community Engagement <br> Officers are in the process of being appointed. <br> The new community-led regeneration and estate renewal strategy has been developed to a <br> point where it is scheduled for delegated decision for adoption on 20 October. <br> We have started early discussions with Woughton Community Council linked to the estate <br> renewal of Netherfield. We are also planning engagement with other estates, linked to the <br> introduction of Estate Renewal Forums. |
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| $\mathbf{6 0}$ | Provide reduced cost bus travel for our Armed Service Veterans. <br> Develop a scheme under the auspices of the Armed Forces Covenant, working with veteran <br> groups. |


|  | A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BLETCHLEY |
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| OUR COMMITMENTS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BLETCHLEY - WE WILL: |  |
| $\mathbf{6 1}$ | Support a bid for $\mathbf{f 2 5 m}$ in Town Improvement funding. <br> The Towns Deal board has been successfully established. Specialist consultants have been <br> appointed to assist and a Towns Deal Investment Plan has been submitted. We are also <br> working concurrently on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Central Bletchley. |
| $\mathbf{6 2}$ | Develop a regeneration plan for Bletchley Town Centre and Fenny Stratford high street. <br> See action 61. |
| $\mathbf{6 3}$ | Create $\mathbf{3 0 0}$ new parking spaces across the town. <br> This matter will be looked at in more detail once the feedback on the Towns Bid process has <br> been received and we are clear which projects are to be taken forward and will also be <br> considered as part of the SPD process that will get underway in 2021. |
| $\mathbf{6 4}$ | Deliver 100 affordable bungalows and accessible houses for older and disabled people. <br> All of our homes will meet the 'Lifetime Homes' standard which assures a high level of <br> accessibility. <br> We have also included several accessible properties within the Lakes planning application <br> which not only includes individual accessible homes and the provision of 64 extra care units. <br> Phase A of the Lakes will include a minimum 10\% of Category M4(3) Wheelchair user <br> dwellings (10 2 bed 3person flats) of affordable homes and 5\% (4 1 bed 2 person and 42 <br> bed 3 person flats) private homes as fully wheelchair adaptable with ramped access/level <br> access to block and dwelling. This will all be provided on the ground floor of the flatted <br> blocks to negate the need for a lift to provide level access to any wheelchair flat. |


|  | On top of this the majority of homes on Phase A will be Category M4(2) which are listed as <br> accessible and adaptable properties (a minimum of $60 \%$ affordable and $60 \%$ private). <br> We are currently reviewing our programme ahead of cabinet in December and will <br> incorporate additional bungalows and accessible houses for older and disabled people in <br> our plans and budget forecasts. <br> Two new bungalows at Rowlands Close in Bletchley have been approved and our aim is for <br> work to start on site in November 2020. |
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| $\mathbf{6 5}$ | Improve Bletchley station \& bus station, and fight to improve local public transport <br> services from Fenny Stratford train station. |
| $\mathbf{6 6}$ | As part of our work on the Towns Deal Investment Plan submission, priority projects will <br> include transport improvements. |
| Oppose the extension of Bletchley landfill site's operational lifetime. <br> Planning application for Bletchley Landfill site was refused by DCC in line with an officer <br> recommendation. |  |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The MK Futures 2050 Commission comprised independent experts and local champions and conducted in-depth research and one of the largest programmes of public engagement in the city's history - direct engagement with 1,051 people and a further 23,105 through social media. The MK Futures 2050 website, www.mkfutures2050.com includes a range of background Commission Working Papers which were developed to inform the preparation of the full report.
    2 "Making a Great City Greater", July 2016, pages 36 and 37

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ Commission Working Paper 2 "Results from the Commission's Engagement Programme" at www.MKFutures2050.com/read-our-report
    4 Strategy for 2050 Engagement Page https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page
    ${ }^{5}$ YouTube video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d6TvsmNpqE

[^2]:    ${ }^{6}$ The FAOs are available at https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-faqs and the narrated presentation is on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCaXFvgyJ6o
    ${ }^{7}$ The "Strategic Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic" note is available at https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page

[^3]:    | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Percentage total spend through waivers } \\ \text { against total spend with suppliers }\end{array}$ | $0.65 \%$ |
    | :--- | :---: |
    | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Percentage total against total number of } \\ \text { contracts awarded }\end{array}$ | $82.35 \%$ |

