

COUNCIL PLAN ACTION		SUMMARY OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
1	Bring forward a robust and balanced budget	<p>The 2022/23 outturn delivered within approved overall budget.</p> <p>Financial training delivered to the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee 15 June.</p> <p>Finance colleagues, working with the corporate leadership team, have commenced the budget process and brought a report to Cabinet in September updating the medium term financial plan (MTFP) and setting out the approach to how the budget objectives will be met.</p> <p>Substantial budget pressures and risks, as seen in most other parts of local government, are a cause for concern. Very close attention is being paid to budget management across the organisation in the context of a mid-year c4M overspend.</p> <p>MKCC Finance colleagues have been actively engaged with government on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) financial sustainability to raise awareness of some of the challenges and sustainability issues in the HRA.</p>
2	Implement innovative recruitment and training initiatives, especially in relation to hard to fill roles like lawyers, planners and social workers	<p>The first cohort of the Planning Academy has seen five graduates work across a selection of our teams whilst they undertake post-graduate professional qualifications in town planning. Recruitment for the second cohort has been completed with two preferred candidates selected.</p> <p>Recruited two trainee solicitors and awarded contract to provider.</p> <p>To date we have appointed and are progressing 18 Apprentice Social work roles in Children’s Services who are currently progressing across four cohorts, for whom we have a rolling programme.</p>
3	Support our local high streets with £100,000 of funding for more local events and activities	<p>Initial site assessments have been completed and a shortlist of local centres has been drawn-up. This shortlist will be agreed through site visits week commencing 2 October, and will sit alongside Queensway in Bletchley as the works to be confirmed through a delegated decision on 10 October. The intended split of funding is £50k for Bletchley and £20k between the local centres.</p> <p>The delegated decision will also allocate £30k of support to our six primary high streets for events. This will mean £5k each for the Town Councils in Bletchley, Newport Pagnell, Olney, Stony Stratford, Wolverton, and Woburn Sands.</p>
4	Provide start-up grants to new high street small businesses and tech start-ups	<p><u>Part One – High Street Grants</u></p> <p>Initial high street project brief for a grant programme in Bletchley has been provisionally approved by Cabinet member subject to funding being agreed on 10 October 2023. Joint working between Economic Development and MKDP has produced an initial proposal, with the two teams planning further joint working after 10 October’s delegated decision.</p> <p>Delegated Decision planned for 10 October 2023 to give approval to spend the Economy one off reserves. Decision includes the proposal to focus a high street grant scheme on Bletchley, supporting empty units in the Brunel Centre.</p> <p><u>Part Two – Tech start up scheme</u></p> <p>An application and scheme process for prospective participants has been formally agreed. Discussions are underway with the Milton Keynes Investor Group to launch the scheme by November 2023.</p> <p>Funding for the Tech start-up scheme has been signed-off by the Cabinet Member. Public launch of the scheme will be taking place late October. There is an established scheme to be launched and a waiting list for companies who have expressed interest on this scheme within MKIGs network.</p>

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5	Continue to use More for MK to increase the numbers of local Real Living Wage employers	<p>Online event jointly hosted with the Federation of Small Businesses on doing business with MK City Council took place on 20/09/2023. During the session officers answered detailed queries from around 20 businesses about doing business with the City Council, sustainability requirements and the More for MK approach.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with the Federation of Small Businesses for a 'meet the supplier' event before the end of the year.</p> <p>Using Invest Milton Keynes mailing list, 8000 subscribers were contacted via e-alert regarding the opportunities to do business with MKCC. Next event that 'More for MK' will be promoted at is the Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce exhibition in November.</p>
6	Build on existing Economic Development schemes and introduce new ones as appropriate to support businesses throughout periods of economic uncertainty	<p>The Economic Recovery Plan has, to date, directly supported over 5,200 Milton Keynes residents and over 1,200 Milton Keynes businesses in their recovery from Covid-19 and the cost of living/cost of doing business crisis. Over 35 separate schemes have been delivered since September 2020.</p> <p>The existing Economic Recovery plan has a total of seven schemes currently running.</p> <p>An additional ten new schemes have been agreed by political decisions over Summer 2023. These schemes will be launched and promoted during October and November 2023.</p>
7	Progress work on a Smart City tech, design and innovation quarter in the city centre	<p>Work on the tech, design and innovation quarter is being progressed by MKDP who are shortly to enter into a second round of market testing.</p> <p>Research and early conversations have been undertaken on 'innovation districts' nationally.</p> <p>Work continues on the tech ecosystem project with key tech employers, investors, entrepreneurs and educators.</p>
8	Develop the improvement proposals for Station Square by September 2023 and commence the roll out of works in early 2024	<p>The final proposed design was completed in September 2023. Funding from s106 and other grant funding has been established at around £350K. Further funding is dependent on decisions to be made by the landowner, MKDP. Once the final design has been fully tested, external engagement with stakeholders will commence.</p>
9	Bring forward a Development Brief for Bletchley town centre (development site) by March 2024	<p>The draft Development Brief for the Brunel Centre was agreed at Delegated Decision on 26 September. It will be published for public consultation over October and November.</p> <p>Feedback from the consultation process will be considered in detail before the final version of the brief is proposed for adoption via a Delegated Decision in February.</p>
10	Finalise the detailed construction costs for the Agora site redevelopment in September 2023 with an anticipated on-site start target date of February 2024	<p>Work continues with the preferred contractor reviewing the design elements and materials to overcome the impact of inflationary pressures. This is being done alongside working through the new Building Safety Act and understanding the implications of the current design and any changes that should be considered and put into action in accordance with the act.</p> <p>A programme of design meetings has been set-up, with the aim to issue sub-contractor tender packages by the end of this year, returning in January. Following a cost review of the tenders, it is expected to have a build cost in March. On this basis, approvals Cabinet and Council decisions will be sought at the earliest opportunity following the elections.</p>
11	Support the International Festival by providing funding to allow for more free places to those on low incomes and people from diverse backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,236 community group participants engaged in creative making workshops throughout the Festival.</li> <li>• 60% of events for the Festival remained free and there were 36,390 attendances at free Festival events overall.</li> <li>• 7,161 attendances were at low cost ticketed event (£6 ticket price).</li> </ul> <p>The IF team organised three special trips during the Festival for both daytime and evening activities for Lakes Estate residents. There were two daytime trips which included a variety of activities taking place across the Festival sites from Fred Roche Garden, Middleton Hall and Campbell Park - suitable for</p>

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		families and mixed ages. 105 participants took part on the special trips from the Lakes Estate with free transportation, food and drinks provided. Additionally, the team also worked with the Foster Carer Network, Children's Centres, Holidays and School Food Programme, Kings Centre Wolverton Food Bank and MK Foodbank and 301 free tickets were given and utilised by these groups for ticketed events. Any remaining budget will be carried over to the next Festival.
12	Develop a five-year Smart City Digital, Tech and Creative Industries Strategy to build on Milton Keynes' global reputation as a smart city and home of innovation	Workshops have already been held with key businesses involved in the technology sector in Milton Keynes. Discussions have commenced with the Open University on the re-introduction of the recognised 'MK Smart' brand. This early ground work has allowed the structure of the strategy to be established and this will be tested with key stakeholders in November and December to ensure it is a strong basis to move forwards on.
13	Progress the business case of a multi-use events arena in the city centre	An outline business case has been completed which identifies the strong potential for a new venue in the City. This is consistent with work carried out to date on the new Cultural Strategy for the City. Consultants working on the second stage business planning work are nearing completion of their outputs ready for use in attracting potential developer and operator partners. On track to deliver the final business plan by November.
14	Support our Arts and Cultural sector by working with partners to deliver more events in the city centre	Hidden City at Fred Roche Gardens successfully attracted an large audience of 4,000 over two days in July and was positively received. The MK Market re-launch programme with the Fandangoe Discoteca, additional stalls, live music and creative activities attracted over 2,000 people during the week-long programme. City of Codes and Light was very well received, with Central Library being transformed with a newly commissioned light show, a new parade and concert and laser show in Campbell Park. The 1001 Inventions programme of science inspired workshops attracted over 1000 people and 10 schools to Central Library. Estimated attendance overall for City of Codes and Light was over 4,000, although it is difficult to confirm actual numbers.
15	Build more genuinely affordable homes by using our wholly owned development company	Initial registration process complete and feedback from the Regulator received and being worked on. Draft business case for the first site (Kents Hill Park) prepared and funding model prepared, issues regarding the Subsidy Control Act 2022 which came into force in January 2023 need to be resolved before further progress can be made
16	Ensure that the delivery of affordable housing is prioritised alongside critical infrastructure in all new planning applications	Decisions on planning applications continue to ensure that the delivery of affordable housing and critical infrastructure is maximised. This includes refusing planning applications (e.g. ref: 22/00280/FUL) where a submitted viability assessment is not considered to be sufficiently robust to justify a shortfall in affordable housing and infrastructure contributions.
17	Continue to deliver the maximum number of council homes we can and make the case to government to fund even more	Please refer to item 21. Discussions are continuing with DLUHC and Homes England to make the case for funding to enable more new homes in Milton Keynes.
18	Tackle bad landlords by ensuring private tenants can easily report safety issues in their properties and crack-down on unregulated HMOs	Private Sector Housing awareness week and Private Renting Event completed – 18 to 22 September. Private Sector Housing team set up pop ups at Centre MK Shopping centre and Trinity, Frank Moran and Coffee Hall community centres to provide advice and support and to promote the private renting event held 22 September. Private Sector Housing hosted the Private Renting event along with many council services alongside Citizens Advice, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue, MKACT and Carers MK, 52 people attended. Investigations into properties identified in the stock condition survey are nearly complete so far resulting in 19 HMOs being officially identified. Work is ongoing with the landlords of these properties to achieve compliance with HMO licensing and health and safety standards. Enforcement action will be considered where necessary.

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19	Continue to provide accommodation and support services for rough sleepers	<p>To date 403 people have been supported through the Old Bus Station (OBS) nightly crisis accommodation. Every month the Rough Sleepers team provides support to approximately 60 people rough sleeping. Within this group, 20 people persistently decline the support offered by the Rough Sleepers team.</p> <p>The current resource is under review whilst we identify a single bedded night provision to support both males and females.</p>
20	Agree a strategy for the future provision of repair and maintenance services for council owned properties	<p>Delegated Decision taken on 19 September confirming the hybrid approach and timings for services delivery from April 2025. This includes the commencement of tenant and leaseholder consultation, direct-delivery of compliance and capital works, and the continued outsourcing of repairs, maintenance, gas servicing etc.</p> <p>A bidders/soft market testing day is planned for 17 November, with a follow up delegated decision to update on the outcomes of the consultation and bidders day, and confirm the final steps for the hybrid approach.</p>
21	Progress building work on Phase A of the Lakes Estate regeneration by March 2024	<p>An extensive piece of work has been undertaken with the preferred contractor and with cost specialists to optimise the scope and specification of the building designs, and to overcome the significant cost inflation pressures on the project due to extreme market conditions.</p> <p>We have also worked collaboratively with Homes England (HE) to finalise out grant, which was submitted in August. We expect the grant outcome by November.</p> <p>We are planning for the December Cabinet to consider and approve the appointment of the preferred contractor to deliver this key regeneration project, considering the final cost and budget requirements, as well taking into account the Homes England grant. If approved, we plan for the contractor to start on site by February.</p>
22	Establish a Community Advisory Group to work with the Towns Deal Board to develop plans for the future of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford by September 2023	<p>The Town Deal Board approved the formation of an Advisory Group on 19 June. Following this approval, letters were sent out, inviting representatives that reflect the rich diversity of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and who have extensive community connections, to attend an Advisory Group inception meeting (31 July). The first meeting outlined the remit of the group, examined the draft terms of reference, and provided an introduction to the Town Deal programmes and areas in which the group may be able to provide feedback. A second meeting was held on 12 September. The next meeting is taking place on 5 December. It is expected that the groups involvement will increase in 2024 as the programme moves further into delivery phases and requires greater public engagement and feedback. Membership of the group consists of ward councillors, representatives from resident associations, faith groups, business representative and other community interest groups.</p>
23	Address damp and mould in council owned properties	<p>We have formalised our processes with our delivery contractor to ensure we can quickly identify and track properties where damp and mould is indicated and appropriate works are done. Regular searches are undertaken to identify for jobs in the contractor system which could be linked to damp and mould. These are then reviewed, with visits where needed. There is a follow up with the tenant 3-6 months after the works to see how the property is.</p> <p>Additional training has been given to the contractors call centre team to identify cases for follow up and MKCC colleagues are also receiving damp and mould training. Our contractor has also trained two members of their team to operate a thermal imaging camera. We have purchased this camera to help identify the root causes of damp and mould. We also look to identify property types which may be vulnerable to damp and mould.</p> <p>Separately we have a new dedicated Damp and Mould Surveyor who is a specialist in this area to more readily identify root causes and actions to resolve damp and mould.</p> <p>Our initial batch of proactive and targeted surveys is now done and the works are either done, live on site or being programmed in.</p>

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24	Work with Woughton Community Council to develop plans for improving community assets, public spaces and continue to develop renewal plans for the area	<p>Following a ward visit with Woughton Community Council (WCC), the Head of Property is producing an options paper for both the MKCC and WCC assets in Woughton by December.</p> <p>Data is being gathered on the running costs for each building and potential uses, with a view to rationalise the estate and ensure the right buildings are retained for service delivery. This work is included within MKCC's Corporate Property Strategy 2024-2029 and cross-cutting projects such as the Early Help Strategy and Leisure Asset Transfer programme.</p> <p>In addition, we are working with WCC to support them to in making a bid for the Carbon Offset Fund to deliver energy improvement measures on the retained properties.</p>
25	Continue to develop renewal plans for Bradville and Fullers Slade, and improvement plans for Galley Hill	<p>The Lakes and Fullers Slade ERF's are fully formed and meeting regularly. Discussions continue in relation to Woughton estates.</p> <p>Bradville ERF is operating with interim committee whilst looking to recruit permanent members. Meetings are still being held regularly.</p> <p>The land sale at Galley Hill was approved at Delegated Decision on 26 September. Work is underway to demolish the pool, which is now dangerous and subject to anti-social behaviour, and to create the new Charities Hub on the site. In addition a planning application has been submitted for the provision of the Special Education Needs (SEN) school, with works programmed to start in January 2024.</p>
26	Address the aging REEMA prefabricated reinforced concrete residential blocks in Bletchley	<p>Several surveys have been completed to understand the condition of the REEMA building construction in detail and their useable lifespan.</p> <p>Whilst future plans for the REEMA are confirmed and communicated to the tenants and leaseholders, we have an ongoing regime of monitoring, as well as a routine of repair and maintenance work in place.</p> <p>We are working to ensure we have the necessary capacity to support tenants, and housing needs assessments are underway. Communications and meetings are planned for residents in November 2023, followed by a Delegated Decision to confirm the final arrangements for residents and leaseholders, as well as the required budget and how it will be funded.</p>
27	Progress a New City Plan to 2050 to ensure our continued, well-planned growth is delivered with proper levels of infrastructure and affordable housing	<p>Extensive research has already been commenced to inform the New City Plan:</p> <p>Final/Draft reports have been received from the consultants on the Open Space Assessment, Landscape Character Assessment, Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment; Retail and Leisure Study; and Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure Study.</p> <p>In addition, work has been commissioned and is ongoing for the Climate and Carbon Study; CMK Growth Opportunities Study; and the MK Infrastructure Study and Strategy.</p> <p>The issue of housing need was scrutinised through the Housing, Planning and Placemaking Scrutiny Committee in July. An initial engagement session has also taken place with the Parishes and Ward Councillors on 2 October.</p>
28	Continue working with DLUHC to investigate new models to ensure the delivery of appropriate levels of funding and infrastructure for future growth	<p>We have used the government funding to appoint external expertise to support our investigations.</p> <p>Evidence gathering for the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) is progressing, with the exploration of legal considerations nearing completion and a finance commission underway. These studies will inform the development of a recommended option for the SOBC in early 2024. To allow all of the work to take place and the SOBC to be developed comprehensively, the Delegated Decision is now expected in March.</p>
29	Continue the MKCC Planning Academy and train new recruits	<p>The first cohort of the Planning Academy has seen five graduates work across a selection of our teams whilst they undertake post-graduate professional qualifications in town planning.</p> <p>Recruitment for the second cohort has been completed and two graduates joined us in September.</p> <p>A 'good practice' note on the Planning Academy has been prepared and agreed with the RTPi.</p>

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30	Bring forward a business case for Mass Rapid Transport (MRT)	The Outline Business Case has been awarded to Ove Arup who developed the previous Strategic (high-level) case. This will provide a more in-depth look at the case for a Mass Rapid Transit system in Milton Keynes. A draft is expected for late December allowing for the case to feed into the New City Plan and local transport plan work.
31	Work with partners to agree a new model of delivery for current SEMLEP functions and continue to seek a Level 2 Devolution Deal for the area	<p>The immediate focus for joint working across the South East Midlands has been planning for the future of services currently delivered by South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP). It has been agreed that the current Growth Hub and Careers Hub will be transferred, with their funding, to a Local Authority. Government funding has also been promised for the provision of Strategic Economic and Business functions.</p> <p>MKCC have supported the evaluation of an Expression of Interest exercise that took place between August and September, with the results reported to the October meeting of the SEMLEP board for decision making. Following the transfer of LEP services, focus will shift to the potential for a devolution agreement.</p>
32	Deliver a programme of improvements for local play areas	<p>Two play areas completed, one at Oxley Park and one at Crownhill and are both in good use today.</p> <p>We have also been successful in our application of a grant for £50K from FCC for a new Play Area in Crownhill. This is set to be approved at an internal capital board in October.</p> <p>Play areas deemed to be in poor condition have been identified and plans/works for 30 of these play areas have been agreed for improvement. These works will commence in November and be completed by the new play area contractor, Glendale.</p> <p>The Delegated Decision for the Play Area Action Plan 2024 – 2034 is planned for March.</p>
33	Improve the fostering service and increase the number of foster carers	<p>As of end September we are progressing nine new fostering households and have launched a further foster carer campaign in October 2023. Our communications team and the fostering service are working together to ensure appropriate mix of general and focussed/targeted campaigns and four new enquiries are being followed up within October.</p> <p>We have also recently secured funding from DfE to join a Regional Care Cooperative south east project which will focus on fostering recruitment across the south east region.</p>
34	Extend youth services to Fullers Slade and continue work on the Lakes Estate so that community members can run social activities and clubs to boost wellbeing	<p>Over the summer the voluntary and community sector alongside MKCC have delivered a range of additional outreach youth work sessions working with young people in Bradville and Lakes Estate alongside a number of other youth work activities. This has been delivered through positive and engaging activities and has further built on our existing youth provision utilising and upskilling community volunteers.</p> <p>The level of engagement on this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversion project over the summer: 36 targeted young people engaged</li> <li>- Participation and Engagement summer programme: 133 targeted young people were involved</li> <li>- Fullers Slade summer provision: 183 young people engaged in activities set</li> </ul>
35	Create new special educational needs provision, including plans for a new school, to ensure we continue to invest in high quality provision and SEND support	<p>Work is progressing to ensure the full works are completed for 24 pupils in a small complex needs school at Galley Hill by September 2024.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place with 19 schools who forwarded expression of interests to provide new satellite provision to ensure capacity is in place to meet the anticipated demand for children who may need a more specialist school place.</p>
36	Continue to invest in knife crime reduction activities to divert youth	<p>A number of activities have been set up and are being delivered or due to be:</p> <p>Hazard Alley – funding agreed and has been allocated, sessions starting in the Autumn term.</p>

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	offending, especially during the school holidays	<p>MK Dons SET – have been funded to deliver targeted outreach in areas of need, this was 50% funded by our partnerships fund and match funded by the affected Parishes.</p> <p>Act Now - this started in February. When a young person is found in possession of a bladed article and arrested they are seen by a YJSS worker within a target of 48 hours. The aim is to catch them at the “reachable/teachable” moment and offer support instead of taking them down the criminal justice route.</p> <p>Focussed Deterrent – this is a where a team co-ordinates interventions for our highest risk habitual knife carriers (under 25) to ensure they engage with the support that is offered, including employment/education, attendance at court ordered activities, medical appointments, and diversionary activities</p> <p>Counter-narrative campaign – this is a campaign designed to show case the good things about growing up in MK and empower young people to make good decisions and make positive choices</p> <p>A sepaprte project successfully delivered for summer activities in partnership with VCS organisations to over 30 targeted young people, many continue to engage with organisations post project. £9.9k funding secured from ‘Million Hours’ fund to run for additional six months with further refunding opportunities explored to extend and expand the project.</p>
37	Increase mental health support by working with the BLMK Integrated Care Board and CNWL to improve mental health services for children and young people	A multi-agency group has formed and is progressing training on neurodevelopmental pathways and collecting the views of professionals working in schools to inform an approach to strengthen the existing service with education and health professionals. There is a task and finish group in place for developing a smoother crisis offer, working across partners to improve our joint crisis response to children and young people. It has agreed the metrics and key data items to be collected to support of revision of the crisis pathways to evidence improvement. A new Clinical Psychologist is being appointed to increase the Mental Health provision to our children in care.
38	Continue to expand our help and support for care leavers	<p>The revised offer to care leavers is being drawn up to differentiate the needs between 16-18, 18-21 and 21-24 year olds. Work is also progressing to widen the accommodation options for care leavers.</p> <p>We have recruited two new care leaver apprenticeships have now started within the service.</p> <p>Demand however is also increasing significantly in this area, alongside the growth in the number of asylum seekers who are eligible for our care leaver offer, and therefore a balance between expansion of services alongside meeting the growing demand is being considered.</p>
39	Deliver holiday activities for children and young people	<p>A highly successful and well attended holiday activities programme has been delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,500 differnet children and young people attended a summer session, up 56% on Spring 2023, and 42% on Summer 2022, averaging five days attendance over the maximum of 16 days available.</li> <li>• Number of children eligible free school meals reached over the Summer was 24% compared to 15% in Spring, and 11% last Summer.</li> <li>• 13,800 sessions attended in total.</li> </ul>
40	Continue to provide a range of help and support for residents impacted by the Cost-of-Living crisis using funding set aside in our budget and utilising any further government funding	<p>Delivery of Cost-of-Living Support continues Via the Local Welfare Provision and XTRA. Additional grants to third sector providers, including charities has been agreed as part of the 2023-24 Winter Plan, which will be launched in October 2023.</p> <p>Spending for the period April – October 2023 was £2,208m out of the £4.8m available in 2023-24. This has been spent primarily on food vouchers for those in receipt of free school meals (over 52,000 issued), Over 8000 households have been supported via food parcels and food larders, 2300 households provided with assistance with rent or Council Tax Arrears, and over 1500 residents received help with energy and wider essential living items.</p>

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		Demand and expenditure will increase over autumn and winter period and all the available funding is expected to be spent during the 2023-24 financial year.
41	Introduce the Mortgage Interest Relief Fund to help hard-working families with emergency financial support to prevent homelessness	A scheme has been introduced and is open for applications.
42	Provide an extra £150,000 to parish councils so they can continue providing vital initiatives such as community cafes, social clubs and wellbeing support	Parishes were written to advising of their allocations during early October – the response to date has been positive. Methodology for distribution will be the same as last year. For those Parishes wishing to draw on their allocation, we expect to distribute the monies during the last two weeks of October.
43	Support MK Food Bank, continue to expand food larders and ensure funding for school holiday food programmes to reduce child hunger	Focus is now on Galley Hill art Centre and meeting place as a solution. Meanwhile we continue to support the Foodbank through paying their rent on the current facility at Kiln Farm.
44	Continue work to establish a Library of Things	Items have been acquired and logistics for access are in place. Dubbed ‘Borrow it’, the library of things will be launched in October or November.
45	Spend £50,000 boosting accessibility around MK by installing dropped kerbs in areas of high footfall and most need	Following engagement with local ward councillors and the Portfolio Holder, several locations have been highlighted for accessibility improvements. These are currently having technical assessments and designs prepared, with improvements to crossing facilities programmed to be installed in Q4 2023/24. The sites currently being assessed are in Olney and Beanhill, from which five will be prioritised.
46	Provide a small level of funding to our new Ethnic Minority, LGBTQ+ and Young People Champions to help them promote equality and diversity in the city	Funding is in place.
47	Continue to invest in mental health projects across the city, including youth counselling and support for LGBTQ+ young people	YiS have continued to deliver the Early Support Hub offer.  Q:Alliance established a network for schools in September 2023. This was attended by seven secondary schools and supported by a range of other voluntary sector services. One to one work will commence from October onwards.
48	Support local groups and events that encourage equality and diversity	New agreements have been agreed and are now in place with CIL and Council of Faiths.
49	Continue our work to make Milton Keynes a Dementia Friendly City	We have developed a new Dementia Strategy, working closely with 100 people with dementia, their carers/families and professionals. Following a further brief period of consultation this will go live in December 2023.  We continue to work with the Alzheimer’s Society and engage with businesses, organisations and individuals, to promote Milton Keynes as a dementia friendly city. We have also begun to discuss with the Open University ways to prioritise and identify more ways to make the city dementia friendly.  Following a delegated decision in September 2023 we are now in the process of commissioning a new dementia support service.



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50	Ensure a well-planned roll out of the new waste contract	<p>Our new contractor, SUEZ, began the new environmental and waste services contract as planned on 4 September. Serco exited the contract with minimal disruption.</p> <p>SUEZ have introduced new ways of working which take time to embed. This includes new rounds, a full database of collections by every property in the city, new safety procedures alongside hiring 20 new drivers and 40 new loaders.</p>
51	Progress the roll out of wheelie bins with proper support for suitable alternative and supported collections for properties unable to use the standard service	<p>Delegated Decision for Waste Operational Policies was completed on 20 June 2023.</p> <p>Extensive communications were carried out by our waste team prior to the go-live. Residents were communicated with directly and two letters were sent to every resident to confirm key points for the new service, as well their designated waste solution. We also ran a number of 'Bins on Tour' events, which were well received. An option 'request for review' was given to every resident. We had over 4,000 requests for review. Approximately one third of requests led to a service change being agreed. At go-live (4 September) we had completed and communicated back to residents on 98% of these requests.</p>
52	Fix at least 25,000 more potholes and road defects and repair more redways and pavements	<p>After six months we have completed 10,755 defects under the classification listed, representing 43% of the stretch target figure. It is usual to see an increase in defect numbers as a result of a cold wet winter period, so the defect numbers will likely rise by the end of Q4 2023/23. However a dry mild winter may help to maintain the road condition reducing the overall number of defects needing to be attended to.</p>
53	Complete the conversion of unused garage sites in Bletchley and Stantonbury	<p>The demolition of the identified garages at Westminster Drive and Dorchester Avenue has been done, along with landscaping to improve the area. Work at Rowle Close is underway to identify options to reduce flytipping and anti-social behaviour.</p>
54	Start work on the procurement of a new highways repair and maintenance contract	<p>The procurement commenced in May.</p> <p>Re-procurement milestones completed to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier Questionnaire - May to June</li> <li>• Invitation To Participate Notice - July to August</li> <li>• Initial Tender submission - Evaluation/moderation September</li> <li>• Negotiation phase - Commencing 16 October</li> </ul> <p>Feedback from the bidders on mobilisation periods in the current market is that they are longer than anticipated than our original programme. It is likely that we will be seeking to extend the existing contract for a short period, which will be subject to a further executive decision.</p>
55	Continue to tackle fly-tipping and littering by continuing our clamp down on illegal dumping, better use of CCTV and use of our litter wardens	<p>In October 2023 we awarded the five year contract for the 'Litter Wardens' after a successful trial. The procurement has provided a new colleague to work within our enforcement team who will prepare the prosecution cases for non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>The income generated from the new contract has paid for a new abandoned vehicle post. This has freed up senior enforcement officer posts to focus on flytipping cases.</p> <p>Flytipping has reduced to 526 reports in Quarter 2 2022/23 against 1,260 in the same period last year. The Environmental Crime Unit are working on improving turnaround of CCTV deployments on lampposts with Ringway.</p>
56	Improve levels of street cleansing, more frequent litter bin emptying and more weeding with the roll-out of the new Environmental Services contract	<p>As a response to a safety recommendation to close high speed roads prior to working on them, a night-working cleansing regime of the grid roads, roundabouts and estate entrances has been trialled for 12 weeks from 12 September through to mid-November. Initial feedback has been very positive in terms of new standards. The road closures has meant deeper, slower cleansing of road detritus. NI195 standards (Improved street and environmental cleanliness) have improved to best standards in 10 years as a result on these roads.</p>

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		The efficiencies arising from a dedicated closure programme for cleansing are significant. Within the trial closures joint working has been undertaken with the LED streetlight replacement programme, as well as road improvements and drainage works.
57	Campaign for more police, community support officers and visible community policing across Milton Keynes	No updates.
58	Work with Thames Valley Police to tackle city-centre anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and car cruising	Safer Streets has now launched, following the successful completion of the safer route. Safer Streets funded 'Op Dizzy' to run up to Christmas which includes high visibility policing in city streets. Twenty additional trained police officers for 'Op Vigilant', received enhanced stalking and harassment training. Multi-agency work continues to address anti-social behaviour at Station Square, in addition to plans for the provision of permanent CCTV and street scene changes, funded by Safer Streets. Joint working to tackle car cruising continues, although this is dependent on resources.
59	Continue of work to promote the White Ribbon campaign to end to violence against women and girls	Implementation of the three-year action plan continues. We are utilising communications, HR policies, employee development and training to evidence progress. Now in place is a reference to White Ribbon as part of our recruitment and selection training for managers. Our Supporting New Employees Policy promotes the White Ribbon video as part of our recruitment onboarding process. We have also introduced specialised training for MKCC Health and Wellbeing Champions. Seven local organisations have been supported to seek their own White Ribbon accreditation, including work with Town and Parish Councils. Planning is now underway for White Ribbon Day on 25 November, and the following 16 days of action.
60	Work with health partners to expand free and low-cost provision of social care such as reablement and home care to help people stay independent when they leave hospital and reduce hospital readmissions	<p>We have ensured that the Better Care Fund for 2023/24 continues to invest in recovery for people discharged from hospital. Following review and an options appraisal, an approach has been agreed to progress to how our commissioned recovery services, Home First Reablement (MKCC) and Home First Therapies (CNWL) can work more closely together. This has been agreed by the Improving System Flow Steering Group. A full business case is now being prepared.</p> <p>Our new Care Academy is in the process of going live. A training programme has been developed for MKCC's Home First Reablement Service to be able to support patients to maintain and regain their independence without the need for specialist therapy input. Specialist training staff are currently being recruited to deliver the programme.</p> <p>A Delegated Decision was taken in September to commission a new Bridging Care service as part of our programme to improve hospital discharge. This service will be up and running in November 2023.</p>
61	Build a new integrated care hub to provide modern facilities for adult day services, short breaks and care support for those with profound disabilities and their families	<p>A very suitable existing property has been identified and following a Delegated Decision on 26 September we are in the process of purchasing it. This route will led to the new care hub being open sooner than had we progressed a new build. It will also mean we can fund the new centre from Tarif and Section 106 fuding and not borrowing, removing another hurdle.</p> <p>We are now working with the architect to develop detailed conversion plans and cost estimate. The project team is in place and tasks allocated to ensure timely delivery of the new resource. Work is also about to commence to engage with service users and their families in the design and development of the new centre.</p>
62	Work with the health partners to deliver the MK Deal, including tackling obesity, improving children and young people's mental health and joined up neighbourhood working	Good progress has been made against the MK Deal. (1) Procurement and award for the diabetes technology has been completed, NHS ethics/NICE approval received, randomised control trial (Loughborough University) protocol agreed and practitioner training has commenced. Patient recruitment now underway. (2) On children and young people's mental health, improved information sharing now in place, an additional psychologist post has been approved and funded and work on a co-location proposal is being taken forward. (3) Agreement reached on the neighbourhood pilot site, Bletchley (the Bletchley Pathfinder) on time and project launch planned for the end of November.

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63	Campaign for a new Health Hub in Bletchley as part of the regeneration of the town centre	Some initial scoping work has taken place, including the feasibility of greater use of the Bletchley Leisure Centre for associated health and wellbeing activities – funding remains a barrier. MKDP engaged in dialogue over the potential to include health provision in the redeveloped Brunel/Sainsbury’s site in Bletchley. The outline ‘Draft Brunel Centre, Bletchley Development Brief’ agreed on 26 September confirms health uses would be appropriate for this development.
64	Improve access to GP services by working with the NHS to expand existing surgeries in Olney, expand the existing surgery in Woburn Sands or build a new facility in SEMK, and build a new health hub in the new Milton Keynes East development	<p>Building works have started on the Milton Keynes East Health Hub. In July 2023 it was announced that Ashe Constuction were awarded the £24M design and build contract for a school and health hub.</p> <p>Construction works to deliver the re-configuration and refurbishment of Asplands Surgery (Woburn Sands) and their Woburn premises is underway. The work at Asplands commenced in July and is expected to take approximately 27 weeks in total. The work in Woburn is expected to take seven weeks and commenced earlier this month. The project is being funded by S106 contributions.</p> <p>The ICB continues to work with Cobbs Garden Surgery to consider opportunities to utilise S106 funding to support the capacity of the practice.</p>
65	Work with the BLMK ICB to improve access to NHS dentists in Milton Keynes	The transfer of responsibility for commissioning NHS dentistry was moved from NHS England to the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board in April 2023.
66	Deliver the first phase of the council house insulation programme and assess possible future bids for more funding	<p>The trial homes in Netherfield were completed as planned. Several new items of work were identified through the trail homes, which have now been incorporated into the programme. This has meant that changes to the homes in scope of wave one have been required, including a blend of homes across the borough that meet the grant funding requirements.</p> <p>Wave one is now underway and we are working with the grant providers to ensure they are happy with the programme, which will likely extend beyond the grant timescale for December completion, and complete in March 2023.</p>
67	Promote the uptake of green roofs to offset carbon and increase biodiversity	<p>Green roof installations were promoted with a workshop session delivered in April as part of the POTenT project. A green roof promotional was held with several Councillors in August. At the Community Action MK event this month (October) the Carbon Offset Fund (COF) and green roofs will be promoted.</p> <p>A final promotional session will be held during the Parish Forum meeting in March 2024. Other promotional activities include press releases and a presentation to young planners on work experience.</p>
68	Plant hundreds of new urban trees selected specifically to suit urban areas to replace trees lost to disease or removed due to being unsuitable	The Urban Tree Action Plan Delegated Decision was approved on 20 June. This included our first provisional tree planting plan as to where both urban and amenity trees would be planted. The current programme anticipates 30 urban trees in CMK (including Station Square and Midsummer Boulevard) and 15 in Woughton. The tree planting programme for amenity trees will commence during tree planting season from November to February, with over 200 trees to be planted in parks and other soft dig areas.
69	Increase biodiversity within our green spaces by continuing measures such as less frequent grass cutting and increasing wildflowers where appropriate	<p>The new grid road cleansing and landscaping overnight programme has meant that areas can now be strimmed or managed without using herbicides on the soft standing green areas. Also, more time can be spent managing the wildflower areas and additional seeding can be undertaken as needed. However, this will not be undertaken on the central reservations. We have the ongoing landscaping transformation programme in both MKCC and HRA land to ensure consistency of land management and creation of land and space for biodiversity.</p> <p>Landscaping trials will commence over winter in selected areas. Parishes and Town Councils were updated in September on proposals for their respective area. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our region is being worked up with the Natural Environment Partnership and the Climate Change Portfolio Holder has oversight on the delivery of this.</p>

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70	Support struggling bus routes by giving private providers time to make services commercially viable	<p>Following the Delegated Decision in July, a funding support mechanism was agreed, primarily to help support the slower than expected recovery of bus patronage following the pandemic.</p> <p>The decision identified several key routes to be allocated short term one-off support funding out of the Transport fund Grant that the DfT allocates to MKCC, this funding is for eight months and is simultaneously being delivered alongside an extensive communications campaign that is being developed and delivered in October under the banner 'use it or lose it'.</p>
71	Recommission a DRT service that supports an integrated public transport system	<p>A study has been commissioned to look at alternative operating models for Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), looking for alternative solutions that facilitate greater integration with the public transport network, instead of a specific answer to removing fully subsidised bus routes.</p> <p>This is looking to understand the opportunities for a transfer-based system that provides better fixed route services with DRT as a feeder service driving efficiency and more flexible cost/destination for the end user whilst supporting a holistic public transport solution. Analysis of the study solutions will be available in November to inform development of a potential new specification.</p>
72	Work with schools and local communities to introduce School Street schemes to increase road safety, improve air quality and reduce traffic around schools	<p>In order to apply for DfT approval to utilise camera enforcement of certain moving traffic offences, which is needed to support the 'school streets initiative', a rigorous audit process of all existing physical/legal provisions is required as part of the evidence base required by central government.</p> <p>This audit and upgrade of existing provisions was commenced in September and any remedial/upgrade works to be completed by December. Simultaneously, a number of back-office systems and procedures are being put in place and likely school locations identified and engaged with ahead of formal government process to decide if/when we can be allocated the required powers.</p>
73	Progress the implementation of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) with the initial goal of achieving Level 2 Active Travel Council status	<p>Discussions have taken place with Active Travel England (ATE) to outline MK's cycling aspirations and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) schemes. The indications about achieving level two 'active travel council' status is good. ATE have indicated re-rating will happen early in 2024.</p> <p>25 priority Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) schemes have been identified and concept options developed by our consultants and residents' initial views on these scheme options was sought during September and October. Good feedback has been received which will be used to refine scheme designs for submission for ATE funding in the next round (tranche five).</p> <p>Recruitment and training for specialist active travel design engineer and the wider team is currently underway following the restructure of the team earlier in 2023, ensuring that the team has robust delivery capabilities, which is another element required to be demonstrated to ATE for achieving level two status. The costs of the recruitment and training are being part funded by DfT grant and will also form part of the overall deliverability and capability of the resource as the authority develops its emerging wider 'Transport Plan 5' that will have extensive active travel components.</p>
74	Work with a pilot school to increase levels of young people cycling and walking to school in the transition from Year 6 to Year 7	<p>Stantonbury School has successfully been identified as a school to introduce new approaches to increase walking and cycling to schools in collaboration with wider services.</p>
75	Make MKCC's electricity carbon neutral through the provision of a solar farm	<p>Alternative options for the provision of renewable energy are being assessed as additional potential opportunities have been identified at the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP).</p> <p>The production of electricity in this manner may reduce the need to purchase a solar farm and any requirement for additional electricity may be via a power purchase agreement (PPA) instead.</p>
76	Continue to encourage employers in MK to become carbon neutral by 2030	<p>The Net Zero Programme was successfully completed within the Economic Recovery Plan. Fifty businesses have been provided with carbon framework reports in accordance to their Net Zero agendas. In total, 668 full time equivalent employees were impacted by the programme, attained through those who attended workshops, and assisted in completion of their organisation's footprint.</p>

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		The relaunch of the NetZero MK programme is underway, with a press release expected in October. Current businesses with Target Zero Accreditation will be promoted during November in order to attract more businesses to the scheme.
77	Invest over half a million pounds in tackling the impact of flooding	<p>Following a restructure of the Flood team in April, a new Flood and Water Manager was recruited in June and this post has commenced recruitment of the flood project management team.</p> <p>This team will be delivering over £3M of new project work over the next five years and it is anticipated that they will apply for significant additional central government funding during this time for major infrastructure works. There are additional works and flood feasibility works proposed through the Shared Prosperity funding. A dedicated post is leading on MK East and Balancing Lakes programme (Principal Flooding Officer).</p>
78	Use the new highways commissioning process to ensure better maintenance water management systems and work with partners to improve flooding infrastructure	<p>The scope and specification for the Highway's commissioning process was developed in May 2023 and issued as part of the Start Questionnaire process. This sets out the need for an annual drainage programme that is cyclical but targeted based on data and localised knowledge creating a map of known areas of concern and utilising innovative technological solutions to monitor and create each subsequent years targeted works package.</p> <p>The negotiation phase of the commissioning process is being undertaken during October, which will further refine the solution offered by the bidders.</p>