

Local Development Scheme

2023-2025

Development Plans



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Executive summary

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out a timetable for policy documents Milton Keynes City Council will be producing over the next three years. These documents will underpin planning and growth decisions the council will make in the years to come.

The document sets out at which point residents and other stakeholders can become involved in helping the council shape these policies. This LDS covers the period from 2023-2025, and replaces the previous LDS published in 2022.

The LDS does not cover detailed timescales for Neighbourhood Plans as these are led by individual town and parish councils. However, Neighbourhood Plans will later become part of the Development Plan and be used in the determination of relevant planning proposals.

Glossary

Development Plan	The framework of policies that, by law, planning decisions on planning applications must be taken in line with unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
Development Plan Document (DPD)	A statutory document or documents that contain the policy framework for planning decisions. This typically includes the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan.
Duty to Cooperate	A legal test that requires cooperation between local planning authorities and other public bodies to maximise the effectiveness of policies relating to cross-boundary strategic matters in Local Plans. It is separate from, but related to, the Local Plan tests of soundness.
Local Plan	The main planning policy document for the City. It contains strategic and detailed policies to guide the location and nature of housing, employment and retail development and other forms of development. It also includes policies and proposals for specific sites.
Neighbourhood Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans	Community-led plans for guiding future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. Once made (adopted) they become part of the Development Plan and used in the determination of relevant planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans are subject to examination and referendum before they can be brought into effect and must be published for public consultation as they are prepared.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Published by Government in March 2012 and last updated in 2023. It contains national policy guiding the preparation of Local Plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.
National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)	Published by Government in March 2012 and regularly updated since. It contains national guidance to aid interpretation and application of national policy contained in the NPPF. It sets out the process for preparing Local Plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.
Plan:MK	The Local Plan for Milton Keynes, and a key part of the statutory Development Plan for Milton Keynes.
Standard Method for Housing Needs	A formula to identify the minimum number of homes expected to be planned for in each Local Planning Authority, in a way which addresses projected household growth and historic under-supply. It identifies a minimum annual housing need figure which is assessed through preparing a Local Plan.
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)	Documents that provide additional detail to supplement policies in Development Plan Documents such as the Local Plan.

1. Introduction

A Local Planning Authority (LPA) is required under The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme or LDS. This LDS is Milton Keynes City Council's (MKCC) work programme for preparing planning policy documents for the City and covers the period 2023-2025. It sets out:

- The current documents that make up the Development Plan for Milton Keynes and other relevant planning guidance (sections 2 – 5); and
- The documents that will be produced during 2023-2025 to maintain an up-to-date development plan (sections 6 – 8).

MKCC's previous LDS was published in 2022 and outlined the programme for preparing a new Local Plan to be submitted in 2024. This LDS provides an updated position and programme on the preparation and submission of a new Local Plan, known as the New City Plan, to replace Plan:MK. It also sets out the timeframes of other planning policy documents to be prepared.

There are some risks that could impact upon the delivery of the work programme. These risks, together with appropriate mitigation measures, are set out in section 9. The risk assessment has been informed by previous work on preparing Plan:MK, and issues that have arisen since adoption of Plan:MK, as well as taking account of both good practice and potential areas for improvement.

2. The Development Plan and Policies Map

The statutory Development Plan for the City of Milton Keynes comprises the documents set out below. These were all subject to community involvement, as well as independent testing (by the Planning Inspectorate or other independent examiners in the case of Neighbourhood Development Plans) and are the starting point for making decisions on planning applications.

- Plan:MK (adopted March 2019)¹
- Site Allocations Plan (adopted July 2018)²
- Minerals Local Plan (adopted July 2017)³
- Waste Local Plan (adopted February 2008)⁴
- Made (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans (see section 3 below).

The Plan:MK Policies Map illustrates geographically how and where the policies and proposals in the Development Plan apply across the City and forms part of the Development Plan. They can be downloaded from the Council's website⁵ and the interactive map is available to view on MyMK⁶. The Plan:MK Policies Maps will be revised following the adoption or review of each of the documents listed above. Neighbourhood Plan Policies Maps show where policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan area will apply.

¹ [Plan:MK | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planmk)

² [Site Allocations Plan \(2018\) | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/siteallocationsplan)

³ [Minerals Policy | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mineralspolicy)

⁴ [Waste Development Plan Document | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/wasteplan)

⁵ [Plan:MK | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planmk)

⁶ [My Milton Keynes Interactive Mapping | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mymk)

3. Neighbourhood Development Plans

Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) were introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. They are community-led documents, prepared by Town and Parish Councils which set out the vision and planning policies for the use and development of land in particular neighbourhoods. They must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework⁷ (NPPF) and in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan. Once 'made' (adopted), an NDP forms part of the Development Plan. Current made (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans in Milton Keynes are shown below.

Table 1: Made Neighbourhood Development Plans

Neighbourhood Development Plan	Made (adopted)
Woburn Sands	July 2014
Central Milton Keynes (Business Neighbourhood Plan)	June 2015
Wolverton Town Centre	September 2015
Lakes Estate	October 2015
Great Linford North	March 2016
Great Linford South	March 2016
Walton	January 2017
Olney	July 2017
Sherington	October 2017
Stony Stratford	June 2018
Woughton	November 2017
Campbell Park	November 2018
West Bletchley	March 2019
Ravenstone	June 2019
Hanslope	October 2019
Lavendon	March 2020
Newport Pagnell	June 2021
Stantonbury	June 2021
Castlethorpe	September 2021
Astwood and Hardmead	January 2022
Walton	October 2022
North Crawley	February 2023
Haversham-cum-Little Linford	September 2023

The LDS does not include timescales for the preparation of new NDPs as these are led by Town and Parish Councils on behalf of their local communities. Timescales for their production or review are set by the relevant Town or Parish Council. However, the Localism Act 2011 places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to support communities undertaking

⁷ [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

4. Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed advice and guidance on the implementation and interpretation of planning policies set out in the Local Plan. Unlike local plans, SPDs are not required to be submitted for independent examination but are subject to public consultation and are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. At the present time, the Council has several adopted SPDs, or older Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs)⁹, which are shown in the table below.

Table 2: Adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance or Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Guidance or Supplementary Planning Document	Adopted
Drainage Strategy SPG	May 2004
Wolverton Regeneration Strategy SPG	September 2004
Telecommunications Systems Policy SPG	May 2005
Milton Keynes Urban Development Area Tariff SPD	November 2007
Transport and Sustainable Transport SPD	June 2009
Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD	April 2012
New Residential Development Design Guide SPD	April 2012
Wind Turbines SPD	October 2013
Agora Development Brief SPD	September 2013
Strategic Land Allocation Development Framework SPD	November 2013
Affordable Housing SPD	January 2020
Milton Keynes East Development Framework SPD	March 2020
Planning Obligations SPD	February 2021
Health Impact Assessment SPD	March 2021
Biodiversity SPD	June 2021
Sustainable Construction SPD	November 2021
South East MK Development Framework SPD	January 2022
Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework SPD	April 2022
Designing Dementia-friendly Neighbourhoods SPD	April 2022
Parking Standards SPD	January 2023

All existing SPDs and SPGs will remain in force as material considerations in the determination of planning applications until individually revoked, withdrawn or replaced.

The previous LDS from 2022 listed four SPDs that the Council intended to produce during 2022-2024. Three of these have been adopted: the Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework SPD, the Designing Dementia-friendly Neighbourhoods SPD, and the Parking

⁹ Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was the term previously used for SPDs

Standards SPD. The fourth SPD that was planned, the Residential Development Design Guide SPD, is no longer being prepared. Instead, the Council will produce an authority-wide Design Code within the next three years setting out the design requirements for Milton Keynes that will include guidance about residential development design.

At the time of writing, the Government is consulting on the implementation of plan-making reforms. This sets out that, in the reformed planning system, authorities will no longer be able to produce SPDs. Instead, an authority could produce a Supplementary Plan, which will have the same weight as a Local Plan or Minerals and Waste Plan but would also be subject to an independent examination. The consultation sets out that design codes must either form part of the local plan, or else be contained in a Supplementary Plan. Our intention is that the Design Code will be adopted as a Supplementary Plan.

The current Regulations¹⁰ set out the procedure to be followed by local planning authorities in relation to the preparation of SPDs.

- **Draft stage (Regulation 13)** – Preparation work and draft version of the SPD, including community and stakeholder engagement/public consultation for a period of at least four weeks. Responses received will then be used to inform the content of the final version of the SPD.
- **Adoption stage (Regulation 14)** – The SPD is formally adopted and then considered by the Council as a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications.

¹⁰ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2700/contents/make)

5. Other documents

Alongside this LDS, the Council also prepares:

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – Published annually¹¹ it reports on the effectiveness of the Development Plan, details activity relating to the duty to co-operate and reviews progress against the milestones set out in the LDS. Monitoring reports are a requirement of Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012¹².

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – sets out how the Council will engage, involve and consult stakeholders and the community in the preparation of planning policy documents and in the determination of planning applications. The SCI is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹³. As required by Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)¹⁴, the SCI will be reviewed every five years. The Council's current SCI was adopted in July 2020¹⁵.

Brownfield Register – The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017¹⁶ require the LPA to prepare and maintain a statutory register of brownfield land (also known as previously developed land) which the Council has assessed as being suitable for residential development. The Register comprises a standard set of data, prescribed by the Government, to help provide certainty for developers and communities and encourage the development of suitable brownfield sites. It must be kept in two parts and is subject to annual review. The latest brownfield register is available on the Council's website¹⁷.

Self-Build Register – The Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 (as amended)¹⁸ requires the LPA to keep a register of people and groups of people who are seeking to purchase serviced plots of land in the authority's area and to have regard to that register when carrying out their functions. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 requires the LPA to grant sufficient 'development permissions' to meet the demand for self-build in their area, as established by their register, on a rolling basis. The Council currently maintains its self-build register and entry to it can be achieved through completion of an online form¹⁹.

¹¹ [Authority monitoring report | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/authority-monitoring-report)

¹² [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2746/regs-34)

¹³ [newbook.book \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/21/section-10a)

¹⁴ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1013/regs-10a)

¹⁵ [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/statement-of-community-involvement)

¹⁶ [The Town and Country Planning \(Brownfield Land Register\) Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1013/regs-10a)

¹⁷ [Brownfield Register of Land | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/brownfield-register)

¹⁸ [Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/22/section-1)

¹⁹ [Self-build Register | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/self-build-register)

6. Local Plan Review

Strategic Context

Plan:MK Policy DS0 requires MKCC to prepare and submit a new Local Plan, containing strategic policies for the long-term growth of Milton Keynes, no later than December 2022. This reflected the Inspector's conclusion that it was necessary for MKCC to undertake a review of Plan:MK in light of the emerging plans for transformational growth along the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford and strategic growth ambitions for the City.

The long-term ambitions for growth in Milton Keynes have been set out in the Strategy for 2050 which was adopted by the Council in January 2021. The Strategy for 2050 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. It includes:

- A commitment to provide essential infrastructure and services, including a Mass Rapid Transit System;
- A commitment to keeping and strengthening 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; and
- 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 for 2050 is not a statutory planning document. Nonetheless, it clearly sets out MKCC's objectives and aspirations for growth in Milton Keynes, building upon the growth strategy already set out within Plan:MK, which has been informed by a suite of evidence studies and extensive stakeholder engagement. As such, it provides a strong foundation for developing a new Local Plan for Milton Keynes.

The requirement to submit a new Local Plan in 2022 was also intended to allow time for the review to take account of progress and decisions on:

- Routing of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway²⁰;
- Delivery and infrastructure associated with East West Rail Stage 1 Phase 2²¹ and Stages 2 and 3²²;
- Delivery of HS2 and relationship with East West Rail and the West Coast Mainline services;
- New national policy (the 2019 NPPF at the time Plan:MK was examined); and
- The new housing figures derived from the Government's Standard Method.

²⁰ [Oxford to Cambridge expressway - National Highways](#)

²¹ [East West Rail - Network Rail](#)

²² [East West Rail | Home](#)

Whilst the strategic context relating to the above has changed significantly since the Plan:MK Inspector's report was published (for example, the expressway has been cancelled and the Government is no longer pursuing a Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge arc) the need to review Plan:MK remains. Previous Local Development Schemes agreed to push back submission of a new Local Plan to 2024, reflecting the uncertainty surrounding the above matters.

Joint working

MKCC does not propose to undertake any statutory joint plan making. This reflects the differing plan preparation timetables of adjoining authorities, the creation of the new unitary authority Buckinghamshire Council, and the formation of two unitary authorities covering the north and west of Northamptonshire. This change to the administrative geography of neighbouring authorities will have significant implications for future plans and joint working in these locations.

The Plan:MK Inspector's report²³ recognises that "it is not necessary that a review of Plan:MK must be a joint plan but it is sensible that this forms a reasonable option to be explored". The Council will continue to work proactively with neighbouring authorities in accordance with the duty to co-operate. This will include the potential to commission joint evidence or set up steering arrangements for evidence work that takes account of the wider functional geography of Milton Keynes.

Procedural matters

MKCC has made significant progress with the New City Plan since the 2022 LDS was published. In particular, MKCC has:

- Commissioned or completed over 20 evidence studies that will underpin the New City Plan.
- Carried out a public consultation about the Ambitions and Objectives for the New City Plan, the results of which will inform the Plan as it is progressed.
- Held a technical conference with key stakeholders about the New City Plan and Inclusive Growth.
- Started a comprehensive engagement programme to ensure meaningful and inclusive engagement about the New City Plan and key evidence studies.

The process for the preparation of local plans is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012²⁴. The key stages are summarised below:

²³ [PlanMK Final Inspectors Report Feb 2019.pdf \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

²⁴ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Preparation stage (Regulation 18) - Scoping/preparation work and draft version of the plan including stakeholder engagement/public consultation.

Publication stage (Regulation 19) - Opportunity for stakeholders to say whether they think the draft plan and its preparation is 'sound' and fit for purpose.

Submission stage (Regulation 20) - Plan is formally submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent planning inspector.

Examination stage (Regulation 24) - Inspector chairs an examination in public to check that all legal requirements have been met and that the plan is consistent with the NPPF.

Adoption stage (Regulation 26) - Following receipt of the Inspector's Final Report, if the plan is found 'sound', it will then be formally adopted and implemented by the Council.

A timetable for production of the new Local Plan to submission stage is set out in the table below. Dates for the examination stage, receipt of Inspector's report and adoption of the plan are not included as they fall outside the control of the Council and will be published, once known, in future iterations of the LDS.

MKCC has begun a comprehensive programme of engagement on the New City Plan, starting from the earliest stages. This includes formal (statutory consultations) and more informal pre-Regulation 18 engagement to inform policy development. Overall, the timetable to submission ('S' on the timetable below) has been extended by six months compared to the 2022 LDS. The Regulation 18 consultation document will be a comprehensive draft plan, informed by a significant amount of evidence and the results from early engagement. Some of the evidence studies are taking longer than anticipated to complete, which has had implications for the timetable.

Figure 1. New City Plan programme 2023-2025

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
2023	Local Plan Stages	Ambition and Objectives consultation									Pre-Regulation 18 engagement			
		Evidence preparation												
2024	Local Plan Stages								Regulation 18 consultation					
		Evidence preparation						Update and finalise evidence						
2025	Local Plan Stages		Regulation 19 consultation			S								
		Update and finalise evidence												

Accompanying the New City Plan will be additional documents describing:

- The sustainability implications of the plan's proposals (**Sustainability Appraisal**²⁵ (SA) which incorporates **Strategic Environmental Assessment**²⁶ (SEA)). The SA embraces economic, environmental and social objectives, including equalities and health impacts, and is undertaken at key stages in the documents' preparation.
- A **Habitat Regulations Assessment** (HRA), assessing the implications of development for the Natura 2000 network of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites) in and adjoining the Plan area. This will identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies and will, where necessary, include Appropriate Assessment.

Consequential updates to the Policies Map will be made in light of the adoption of the New City Plan.

Minerals and Waste Planning

Waste Plan

MKCC is the waste planning authority for the area. The Waste Plan (2008) sets out how the waste management requirements for the administrative boundary of Milton Keynes will be achieved. It covers the management of household (municipal), commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste and provides the basis for waste planning decisions made by the Council.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 10A) 28 in April 2018 set out a requirement to review this document every five years.

The scope of the new Local Plan will now incorporate waste planning policies to act as the authority's statutory Waste Development Plan Document. Once adopted, the new Local Plan would replace the current Waste Local Plan.

Minerals Local Plan

The Council adopted a new Minerals Local Plan on 1 July 2017. The Minerals Local Plan sets out the strategic vision and objectives for minerals related development; identifies the mineral resources of local and national importance as well as the amount of these to be provided from within Milton Keynes; identifies the development strategy and site-specific allocations to facilitate delivery of a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and maintenance of landbanks; and sets out the policies and proposals against which planning applications for minerals related development will be determined. Despite there being no changes in circumstances since its adoption (in terms of national planning policy or local and other material circumstances) as the Minerals Local Plan was adopted more than five

²⁵ [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

²⁶ [Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

years ago, a review of the Plan has been undertaken to determine if it needs to be updated. MKCC will publish information to formally confirm the conclusions of this review, and the LDS will be updated accordingly, in due course.

Plan-making reforms

The Government is currently consulting on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill that relate to plan-making. These proposals focus on increasing engagement in the plan-making process and speeding up the process of preparing plans and updating them more quickly. As the proposals are currently being consulted on, it is not possible to give a definitive position on how these proposals will be implemented in practice.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy proposes that ‘plan makers will have until 30 June 2025 to submit their local plans, neighbourhood plans, minerals and waste plans, and spatial development strategies for independent examination under the existing legal framework...’. These plans will be examined under the current legislation. It is our intention to submit the Plan by the June 2025 deadline so that it is examined under the current legislation.

7. Evidence base

A key feature of the Local Plan is that its policies are soundly based on up-to-date and robust evidence. Relevant elements of the Local Plan evidence base will need to be updated to inform the review. The table below identifies some examples of the reports and studies that will be required to provide a robust and credible evidence base for the Plan so that it can support the delivery of the Strategy for 2050 ambitions.

Table 3: New City Plan evidence documents

Document	Purpose/Scope
Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Assessment	To consider the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers. Scope of this widening to include transit and boat dwellers.
Study of the role and function of Bletchley (including link with MRT and station redesign, town centre)	Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document , capitalise on opportunities from enhanced connectivity and accessibility, enabled by EWR, through the provision of guidance which promotes holistic and inclusive renewal within Central Bletchley.
Open Space Assessment	To understand the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision within the Borough and ensure that public open space is provided for as part of new development and is protected appropriately.
Landscape Character Assessment Valued Landscape: Policy Review Review of Areas of Attractive Landscapes	To review the landscape character of the Borough and provide evidence for countryside strategies and housing allocations, including whether particular landscapes have higher local value and warrant a different policy approach.
MK Infrastructure Study and Strategy (MKISS)	Identifies the various forms of infrastructure that are required to meet growth that may come forward through the Local Plan and through to 2050.
Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Study	To identify a network of MRT routes and associated infrastructure requirements, and understand the feasibility, costs, phasing and delivery of an MRT system.
Transport Modelling	To enable area-wide traffic and public transport modelling to take place, including the future traffic scenarios to be predicted and transport solution to be tested.
Land Availability Assessment (LAA)	Identifies a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing

	and economic development uses over the plan period. The assessment is an important source of evidence to inform plan-making and decision-taking, and the identification of a 5-year supply of housing land.
Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (Logistics study commissioned separately by SEMLEP)	The HEDNA will assess the housing and economic development needs for the Borough of Milton Keynes for the period 2022-2050. It will include data on population change, market signals, the economy and labour market, employment forecasts, a commercial market assessment and future employment land requirements for different types of employment floorspace.
Retail Capacity and Leisure Study	The study analyses retail and leisure catchment areas and capacity. It will assess shopping patterns and forecasts the amount of retail and commercial leisure floorspace required within the Borough over the plan period.
Carbon and Climate Study	To assess how the Local Plan can deliver low- or zero-carbon and climate-adaptable growth. This will incorporate the air quality & air pollution study.
Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Study	Review current and future needs for GBI up to 2050. It will provide feasible options for a GBI Strategy with the consideration of strategic growth options highlighted in the MK 2050 Strategy and by planning for GBI that will be resilient to climate change, multifunctional and adaptable to the future needs of the residents of Milton Keynes.
Integrated Water Management Study	To assess flood risk from various sources, understand the demand for and supply of water resources, understand the demand for water treatment, and propose interventions for managing this alongside growth set out within the Local Plan.
Balancing lakes study	It will provide an update to the earlier drainage studies (carried out in 2000 and 2003), which will assist in planning the future flood and water infrastructure needed for the growth of Milton Keynes up to 2050
Accessibility Study	Seeks to understand how existing places support or hinder healthy, social, and convenient living by providing and enabling access to most people's everyday needs within a short walk, wheel, cycle, or scoot of their homes.

Density Study	To determine appropriate density ranges for development typologies to be used in site assessment work for the New City Plan
Whole Plan Viability Study	Addresses overall deliverability of the plan to determine whether the policy requirements can be viably delivered.
Design Code and Guidance	To set our core principles and requirements to guide development set out within the New City Plan
Health Impact Assessment	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool to identify and optimise the health and wellbeing impacts of planning.
Equality Impact Assessment	A systematic and evidence-based tool, which enables us to consider the likely impact of work on different groups of people. Completion of equality impact assessments is a legal requirement under race, disability and gender equality legislation.
Sustainability Appraisal	An assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan's policies, alongside consideration of any significant adverse effects on protected biodiversity sites.
Habitats Regulation Assessment	An assessment under the Habitats Regulations, to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site.
Master planning work	For any strategic sites to outline the key elements that should be incorporated into any development proposal.
CMK Growth Opportunities Study CMK Placemaking Principles Review	A study to inform a strategy for growth in CMK. This will include the potential capacity for new residential development, alongside a skyline strategy for CMK.
Waste Needs Assessment	An Assessment of waste arisings and how these should best be managed, whether additional waste sites and infrastructure are required and how waste can be used as a resource as part of energy planning and provision in MK.
Comms and Engagement Strategy and Statement of Community Involvement	Outline how the Local Plan will be prepared with effective engagement from the public and groups of people who do not usually engage with local plan development (including digital platform and data visualisation).

8. Duty to Cooperate protocol

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for local authorities and certain specified public bodies to cooperate with one another (the 'duty to cooperate') in the preparation of local development plans. The duty requires local authorities and other public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in order to maximise the effectiveness of their development plans in so far as they relate to strategic matters. Strategic matters are defined in the Act as: 1. sustainable development that has or would have a significant impact on at least two local authority areas, and 2. sustainable development in a two-tier area where the development is a county matter or has or would have a significant impact on a county matter (i.e. typically waste and minerals proposals).

The protocol set out below will guide how MKCC will consider and agree Duty to Cooperate matters internally.

Table 4: Duty to Cooperate protocol

Matter	Decision Making
Agreeing Statements of Common Ground with Duty to Cooperate bodies	To be agreed by Cabinet member via Delegated Decision or Cabinet Decision.
Agreeing formal MKCC response to statutory consultations on Development Plan Documents that could give rise to significant cross-boundary impacts	To be agreed by Cabinet member via Delegated Decision or Cabinet Decision. Where the matter is a re-consultation, and the consultation or MKCC's response does not introduce any significant new matters that could impact on Milton Keynes, the response would be agreed by the Cabinet member in consultation with the Director for Planning and Placemaking.
Agreeing formal MKCC response to statutory consultation on Local Development Plan documents (e.g. Supplementary Planning Documents) that could give rise to significant cross-boundary impacts	To be agreed by the Cabinet member in consultation with the Director for Planning and Placemaking.
Agreeing response to consultations by duty to cooperate bodies on technical matters (e.g. technical studies)	To be agreed by the Cabinet member in consultation with the Director for Planning and Placemaking.

9. Risk and Resources

The production of the new Local Plan and other planning policy documents will be undertaken primarily by the Development Plans Team and, where possible, utilising in-house staff resources. However, it will be necessary for specialist consultants to be appointed for some evidence gathering and specialised tasks, such as economic viability testing. The use of consultants can increase staffing capacity, but also has associated costs. In addition, other Council services, such as Development Management, Leisure, Transport Policy and the Urban Design and Landscape Architecture teams, may lead on the production of individual SPDs.

The process of preparing planning policy documents requires resources to undertake consultation (e.g. printing documents, the hire of premises for public consultation events and analysing responses) and for the formal examination process (e.g. employing a programme officer and paying a planning inspector's fees). The need for these resources will have to be taken into account in future budgets and work programmes.

Preparation of the Local Plan is currently overseen by the Leader of the Council. Detailed engagement with Councillors will also be undertaken as part of preparing the Local Plan through the Planning Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG).

The table below lists the main risks and mitigation measures that have been identified in relation to the programme. These risks are not prioritised or ranked in any order.

Table 5: New City Plan risks

Risk	Impact	Actions and contingencies
Changes to national planning policy or guidance and the plan-making system more broadly.	Work completed no longer relevant or requires significant adaptation to fit new policy or format.	Monitor emerging guidance, consultations and legislation and respond to changes early. Reassess priorities through review of LDS.
Volume of work greater than anticipated, both within the Planning service but also across other services inputting into the Local Plan.	Delays to evidential studies which will impact the production of the final plan; impacts upon officer wellbeing.	Ensure effective programme management to spot and address pinch points or developing capacity issues. Commissioning external consultants to deliver evidence base studies.
Evidence base work takes longer than expected to complete or there are unforeseen delays.	Delays to evidential studies which will impact the production of the final plan.	Effective programme management to constantly monitor project progress and arrange additional support where necessary.

Joint working arrangements with external authorities is not effective or causes delay.	Delays to evidential studies which will impact the production of the final plan.	Ensure close working with other authorities to detect issues early in the process. Ensure that timescales realistically reflect partner authorities' ability to contribute to joint working. Share plan development timetables with neighbouring authorities. Ensure commitment to key milestone dates from relevant parties in advance.
Requisite expertise is not available in-house.	Delays to evidential studies which will impact the production of the final plan.	Identify areas where there are gaps in the team's knowledge and experience and make suitable arrangements for external cover.
Change in political control of the Council or competing priorities.	Work already completed requires significant revision in light of new political landscape or priorities.	Outside of the control of the programme team but monitoring and planning for the situation will lessen any impact.
The Planning Inspectorate are unable to meet the timescale for examination.	Council's target of adopting the plan by 2025/26 is not achievable.	Determine when liaison with the Inspectorate should take place to ensure that a timetable can be agreed.
The proposed plan fails the test of soundness or duty to co-operate.	Plan requires significant revision and therefore Council's target of adopting the plan by 2025/26 is not achievable.	Maintain a good dialogue with stakeholders in line with the requirements of the SCI. Seek to establish robust joint working arrangements with neighbouring authorities. Keep an accurate log of all cross-boundary duty to cooperate meetings and notes. Commission an external / peer review to assess the soundness of the plan prior to submission.
There is a legal challenge at any point during the consultation, examination or adoption process.	Council's target of adopting the plan by 2025/26 is not achievable.	Minimise risk by ensuring preparation of 'sound' documents. Work closely with Legal Services and external legal support as required.
Inconsistent logging of Annex W spending or correct procedure not followed.	Over-spending in an area means less funding available elsewhere; under-spending means funds are not released to spend elsewhere.	Specific focus by programme team on budget and spending through monitoring process and reminders to project leads of the process.
Additional projects or work identified and	Unable to meet timescales committed in the LDS or keep within the allocated budget.	Updating the START doc and reporting to the Local Plan Board with spend to date and have

initiated as part of the new local plan.		business cases for projects go through the board and finance.
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10. Monitoring and Review

The LDS will be monitored via internal board structures and reported on through the AMR. This will set out whether the Council is meeting, or is on target to meet, the timetables for preparing the planning policy documents set out in the LDS and, if not, what the reasons are. In particular, the following matters will be looked at:

- Progress against specific milestones
- Reasons for any mismatch and proposed actions
- Any new technical information that warrants changes or reviews
- Any new legislation, and
- Any other unforeseen circumstances that may have arisen.

As a result of monitoring performance against these criteria, the Council will consider what changes, if any, need to be made. If changes are appropriate these will be brought forward through the review of the LDS.