

Consultation

A proposal to open education provision at the new development area known as Milton Keynes East.

What is this consultation proposing?

This six week consultation from 17 March 2025 to 27 April 2025 is seeking views about the proposal to open new education provision at Milton Keynes East (MK East). The purpose of this document is to provide background information about the proposal and feedback will be used to help finalise the plans for the new school in the area.

What role does the council have in school place planning?

The council has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children who are living in Milton Keynes. This duty has to be met in the context of significant growth in new housing in the Milton Keynes area. By 2026, almost 300,000 people will live in Milton Keynes rising to 325,000 by 2037 (currently 287,000). Of particular importance to new families is the ability to obtain a local place at a quality school for their children. Although the pace of growth in Milton Keynes makes this a challenge, the council has continued to achieve this due to excellent partnership work with local stakeholders. Since 2017, five new schools have opened and ten expansion projects have been completed to accommodate the increase in the pupil population of just over 5,200 children.

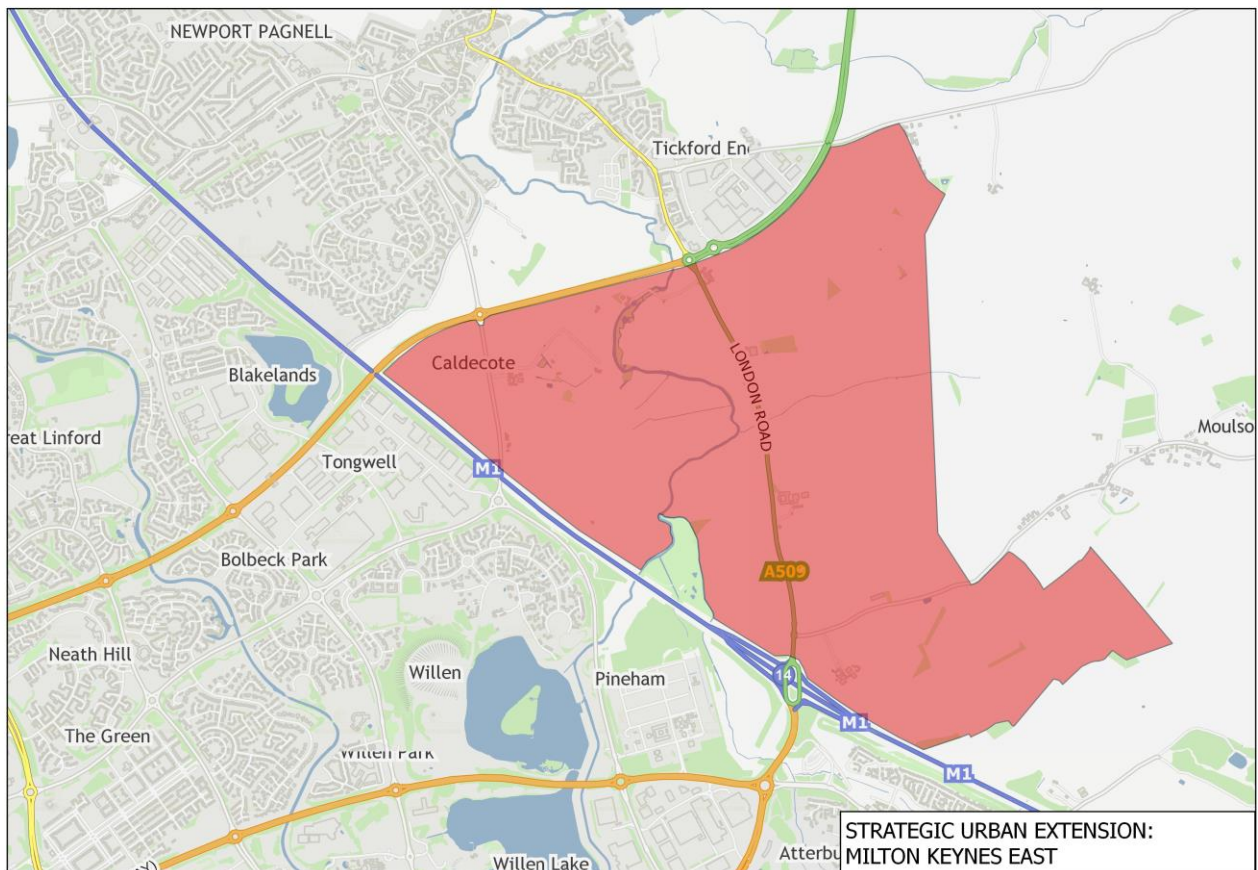
The council outlines its plan to ensure sufficient school places each year in its 'Mainstream Place Planning Forward View' and sets out its vision for SEND provision in its 'Specialist Provision Place Planning Forward View'. Place planning groups with colleagues from the primary, secondary and SEND sectors, have been established to ensure a collaborative approach to place planning and admissions. These groups work together to ensure that the council meets its statutory sufficiency duties and that any place planning matters are holistically considered with the sector, including the timing and release of education places when it has been identified that additional places are required.

What is driving the need to consider new education provision at MK East?

The Milton Keynes East Development Framework was adopted by the Cabinet of Milton Keynes City Council in March 2020. The area of Milton Keynes East has been allocated for a residential-led urban extension and covers approximately 440 hectares of land encompassed by the M1 to the west, the A422/A509 to the north, and Moulsoe and the wider rural area to the east. The allocation is for around 5,000 homes and 105 hectares of employment land along with a range of social, transport and green infrastructure provision. Based on 5,000 homes, it is estimated that school places will be required for 2,100 primary age children and 1,500 secondary age children. Schools are at the centre of a community and support new communities to grow and thrive.

Due to the size of this development, local sites have been secured to enable the council to deliver an all through school and a further three primary schools, if required. Overall, this provides the ability to deliver up to an additional ten forms of entry of primary provision and up to ten forms of entry of secondary provision in the local area. If all schools are delivered, these would eventually provide up to 300 places per year group from Year R to Year 11. Without new provision opening, children moving into the area as the development grows will be unable to access a local school place. The number of EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) in Milton Keynes has been increasing steadily since 2018/19 with demand for specialist provision expected to continue rising each year. Including a specialist unit as part of the provision will support to meet this demand and to, wherever possible, keep children in their local communities and within Milton Keynes.

A map of the site is shown below.



What is the proposal?

The proposal is to initially deliver a new all through provision offering up to 90 places from Year R to Year 6, up to 180 places from Year 7 to Year 11, a specialist unit for a small number of children with special educational needs (SEND) and nursery provision. The all through school will be delivered across two separate buildings with construction of the primary phase building already completed followed by the secondary phase at a later date. The proposed opening date of the primary phase as an educational establishment is September 2027 with the opening of the secondary phase to be determined at a later date. Provision of up to three additional primary schools will go ahead if required at a later date which will be determined in line with the needs of the local population.

In order to address the needs of the local population, whilst minimising the impact on other schools across Milton Keynes, it is likely that the new school would open initially with a reduced admission number with more places released gradually in line with growth from the new housing development.

The table below provides general information about the proposed school provision required:

Proposed opening date	Primary phase: 1 September 2027 Secondary phase: To be determined
Phase	All through school for mixed gender with an age range from 2 years to 18 years
Number of places	Primary capacity of 630 with 90 places in Year R to Year 6 Secondary capacity of 1500 with 300 places in Year 7 to Year 11 SEND unit capacity of up to 24 pupils 39 place FTE nursery for 2 to 4 year olds
Catchment area	It is anticipated that the school will serve residents living in the new development area of Milton Keynes East

Next steps

This consultation provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposal for education provision at MK East. At the end of the consultation, officers will consider all comments made and feedback gathered will be used to finalise the council's proposal for the new school if required. Should the process continue the specification for the new all through school will be published and a free school presumption competition will be launched in the summer term of 2025. This will be open to multi academy trusts that are able to deliver high quality education and establish the school ready for opening in September 2027.

How can I contribute to this consultation?

This consultation seeks views from all stakeholders including schools, parents and carers, local residents and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. Please respond by completing the online form or by email, stating your name, organisation, whether you are a parent or local resident and your comments to:

sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

or in writing to:

Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes City Council, Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

This consultation will end on 27 April 2025