

Council Plan - Delivery Plan 2024/2025

Planned management actions: October 2024 – February 2025 Update

Council Plan action	Planned management actions	Summary of our achievements to date (Feb 2025)
1 Bring forward a robust and balanced budget without relying on reserves	Support the standard budget cycles: a) September 2024 and September 2025 Cabinet meetings (i) MTFP refresh will set out latest projections for the GF and approach to delivery of savings. (ii) HRA Business Plan Quarterly Refresh and (iii) Latest Financial Monitoring Report and key management actions to deliver a balanced budget. b) December 2024 and December 2025 Cabinet meetings: Draft Budget published for consultation setting out how the 2025/26 budget will be balanced, and measures proposed to deliver this. c) February 2025 and 2025 Cabinet meetings: Final Budget proposals for Cabinet for agreement, then to be considered for approval by Full Council in February 2025 and February 2026. d) Support the Budget Scrutiny Committee with their work year round, but especially following the publication of the Draft Budget.	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) refresh successfully undertaken in September 2024. 2025/26 draft budget, with income and savings proposals, successfully developed with the Cabinet approving it at their meeting December 2024. Final balanced budget presented to Cabinet 4 February 2025 and Full Council on 19 February 2025. Throughout the process we have supported the seven Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee meetings and the publication of the committee's annual report. Action fully complete for 2024/25 year.
2 Review our current shared services model	Carry out a review by December 2025 at the latest to determine the effectiveness and value for money of the current arrangements. Any review and decision for change will be tied in with decisions on the future of the ERP.	A Delegated Decision was taken in October 2024 regarding the new contract for ERP and a review of service delivery considering impact of new contract is ongoing. Subsequently a new contract for ERP has been put in place with no impact on service delivery in the medium term. More work is needed on the sustainability and appropriateness of the shared services model longer term.
3 Implement innovative recruitment and training initiatives , especially in relation to hard to fill roles like lawyers, planners and social workers	a) Pilot an enhanced relocation offer between September and December 2024 (SR). b) Maintain the 'academy model' in place in planning, aim for a new intake in September 2025 (PT). c) Increase capacity to take on more newly qualified children's social workers by December 2024 (MH). d) Pilot a partnership with schools and our college in the 2024/25 academic year to raise awareness of the number of local young people who join our legal team from school or college (SB). e) Continue to improve our recruitment materials, including job information and videos (SR). f) Organise an event in April/May 2025 aimed at encouraging more people of colour to apply for middle to senior management jobs at the council (SR).	a) An initial plan to offer an enhanced relocation package was not supported by JNC (July 2024). An alternative plan was then developed for hard-to-fill roles in children's services and signed-off by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in February 2025 for piloting. Our benefits package has been improved with the addition of a lease car scheme launched in 2024 which is proving very popular (over 50 colleagues have already joined the scheme). b) Given successful retention of existing cohort we are pause recruitment to focus on retaining the current cohort. c) We added the ability to support nine more newly qualified children's social workers (AYSE) in 2024. d) A busy programme has been delivered to raise awareness of legal team opportunities, including outreach visits (university, college and placement opportunities for local young people). A scheme is being developed to create a structured pathway for local young people into legal careers. e) We have developed our recruitment materials further. Our priority area of focus, communication with candidates, has improved substantially. Innovative new videos are in production explaining what care roles involve so new recruits fully understand the tasks they will be asked to undertake. f) No update at this time.
4 Review our wholly owned development company MKDP to ensure it is delivering our council priorities	Complete a review specifically focusing on the re-investment plan for the income forecasted by the company to ensure it is aligned with the council's priorities. This is not a general purposes review of the company or governance. The review will be complete by September 2024 and will report to Cabinet alongside any recommendations.	Review was completed on time, reported to Cabinet and agreed on 10 September 2024. Action fully complete.
5 Undertake an LGA Corporate Peer Challenge	a) Book a Peer Challenge for early to mid-2025 (January to May 2025) – which is the first available window the LGA can offer us. b) Scope out any specific areas we want the review to look at by the end of November 2024. c) Produce a draft of a self-assessment document by January 2025. d) Produce a six month action plan following the Peer Challenge, with a view this will all be completed by December 2025.	A LGA corporate Peer Challenge has been organised for week commencing 10 March 2025. A self-assessment was completed on time and submitted.
6 Refresh the Housing (HRA) Business Plan	Refresh the 30-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan to reflect local and national context, the changing economic and regulatory environment and our priorities as a landlord, to provide a clear and affordable framework for future investment. Take a draft plan to Cabinet by December 2024 to form the basis of consultation and engagement with tenants and leaseholders which will then be subject to final approval by Cabinet in February 2025, alongside the HRA budget.	Financial business plan was refreshed at Quarter 1 and reported to September 2024 Cabinet. Quarter 2 financial refresh was finalised and reported to December 2024 Cabinet as part of the draft budget. Announcements made in the national Autumn Budget were reflected. The final business plan and narrative was approved by Cabinet in February 2025 on subsequently by Full Council. Action fully complete for 2024/25.

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		The plan will then be refreshed annually (next refresh by February 2026) and will also include any changes in government policy.	
7	Prepare for new ward boundaries and all out elections in May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Work closely with the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) team and other stakeholders throughout the review period, including facilitating Councillor working group meetings and any further Full Council response if that is agreed. b) Following the final recommendations from the LGBC, carry out a consequential review of polling districts and places, (and if necessary, a Community Governance Review) in time for new registers to be published in December 2025, prior to May 2026 elections. c) Undertake a publicity campaign in February 2026 explaining to voters the ward boundary changes, the rationale for them and raise awareness of the 2026 'all out' elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A council size submission and electorate forecasts were submitted after discussion and development with a Councillor working group. Political groups submitted their own proposed warding patterns as part of the LGBCE's first stage consultation. Briefings/information were supplied to parishes to help them understand the process and how to respond to the initial consultation. b) The LGBCE released their draft recommendations for second stage consultation in early December 2024. These have been publicised and specifically highlighted to parishes and town councils directly affected. In January 2025 Council authorised the commencement of a Community Governance Review and Polling District Review. An initial consultation has now been sent to all parishes and town councils seeking their views on changes to Community Governance. c) We plan to form a communications steering group later in January 2025 (bought forward in response to scrutiny feedback) to prepare and oversee a communications plan supporting the boundary changes ahead of all out elections in May 2026.
8	Progress work on a Smart City tech, design and innovation quarter in the city centre, creating hundreds of new well-paid jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure MK City Plan 2050 makes provision for a 'tech quarter' in CMK that provides a physical home for tech and innovation businesses to work alongside the education sector (included in Regulation 18 draft, June 2024). b) Undertake visits to successful 'tech quarters' during autumn/winter 2024, to develop our understanding of what offer works best. c) Engage with business community through existing forums and as part of a tech quarter steering group to develop our understanding of what they would want to see delivered in a 'tech quarter', by March 2025. d) Work with landowners (including MKDP), development partners and investors to develop proposals (by March 2026) for delivering the tech quarter. e) Attempt to attract an anchor tech company to the 'tech quarter' scheme as part of development of the concept, in conjunction with MKDP and other development partners by March 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Feedback received relating to the Tech Quarter in the Regulation 18 MK City Plan 2050 consultation demonstrates support for the concept and the opportunities it could create, and offered ideas for what the Quarter should provide or enable in order to be successful. b) Visits to tech quarters, including one in Manchester, are taking place between January and March 2025. c) We plan to engage the business community further. d) No update at this time. e) No update at this time.
9	Work with the Open University and MKDP to help deliver the OU's Campus 2030 project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meet regularly with MKDP and OU during 2024 to support the development of the Campus 2030 proposals, and into 2025 and 2026 depending on the outcome of the OU's decision-making processes. b) Ensure MK City Plan 2050 policies can support/enable delivery of new university in the city centre (as included in Regulation 18 draft, June 2024). c) Unlock Tariff/s106 funding to support delivery of a new university in the city centre (as agreed by Cabinet in November 2023), continuing the commitment already agreed by Infrastructure Delivery Board in May 2024. d) If the proposal for of in-person, undergraduate teaching in CMK progresses, put in place a Memorandum of Understanding between MKCC and OU to demonstrate our commitment to it by October 2024. e) If necessary, facilitate and support discussions between the OU and other potential partners, including MK College and Osborne/Santander throughout 2024 and 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Joint Strategy Group meetings continue and are used as the conduit for the OU to keep MKCC (and MKDP) up to date with the Campus 2030 proposals. b) Feedback received relating to the university in the Regulation 18 MK City Plan 2050 consultation demonstrates support for the project, recognising the role it would play in the city, and identifying some of the challenges that will need to be considered should Campus 2030 progress (e.g. student accommodation). c) Initial S106 monies transferred to OU and to contribute to project feasibility work the OU are undertaking. d) Memorandum of Understanding between OU and MKCC now signed by both parties. e) There continues to be discussion between a range of interested parties and partners.
10	Continue to use 'More for MK' to increase the council use of local suppliers and increased social value from our contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hold a minimum of three local supplier events along with virtual engagement events for quick interaction. b) Provide updates in September 2024, December 2024, April 2025, September 2025, December 2025, April 2026, September 2026 that will include information and data from our significant contracts of Waste, Highways and the Regeneration of the Lakes Estate as all have significant More for MK contributions to demonstrate engagement with the Supply Chain of Milton Keynes. c) Continue to include social value is being included on all major contracts where the bidders must demonstrate meeting the four pillars of 'More for MK' as part of the contract evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In June 2024, the Council successfully hosted an in-person SME engagement event with three of its main contractors, which was attended by over 90 local suppliers from Milton Keynes. An additional online engagement event has been postponed due to the delay in the launch of the Procurement Act 2023. is scheduled before the end of December 2024, with another planned for the launch of the new Procurement Act in early 2025. b) Information is being routinely collated on 'More for MK' contributions, including from environmental services contracts and Lakes Estate regeneration. Achievements during 2024 are being reported through our website. A Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) deep dive into the progress to date was undertaken in February 2025. c) Social value is now a key component in major contracts, incorporating the four pillars of 'More for MK'.

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			Action now fully completed.
11	Support our local High Streets to thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Between September 2024 and March 2025 - delivery of grant funding programme to target high street and business start-ups and the growth of existing businesses in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. b) Continue to deliver public realm improvements and beautification works to Whaddon Way and Queensway, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (to complete in March 2025). The UKSPF works on Queensway in Bletchley will allow some early quick-wins (including the removal of tree stumps) before the comprehensive Town Deal-funded works commence in 2025. c) In April 2025 - Produce an MK Future High Streets report to understand the city's High Street offer, including identification of success stories and gaps that need to be addressed (tying in with our national and international branding and marketing workstreams in Council Action Plan 12). d) Support for, and promotion of, the MK high street offer through national campaigns including 'Shop Local' and 'love your local market' (May to June 2025). 	<p>Action now fully completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Applications for the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Grant Scheme Award have now closed with funding fully allocated. 25 businesses were successful and MKCC officers are in the process of signing grant agreements. b) The UKSPF funded beautification works on the Whaddon Way have been completed, with the Queensway works on target for delivery by March 2025. c) The MK Future High Streets report is currently being developed, with stakeholders such as town councils and business associations being actively engaged. d) Invest Milton Keynes and the council's communication team will work together to promote these schemes throughout 2025/26. Throughout 2024/25, the six major high streets were supported with an allocation of £5K each to run events, these have all been delivered and benefits are currently being reviewed.
12	Work with partners to best target our inward investment and business support offer	<p>Work through our InvestMK team and with partners such as the South East Midlands Growth Hub, Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce, and the Federation of Small Businesses to develop local, regional, national and international initiatives to support new and existing businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Data Sharing: We will share market intelligence, research findings, industry and local insights with businesses. Quarterly reports will be produced, commencing August 2024. b) Branding: We will continue to develop the city-wide 'Better by Design' brand to showcase Milton Keynes' unique strengths and opportunities. We will produce business-focussed and place-focussed promotional videos by September 2024 and utilise them within our enhanced InvestMK website (complete August 2024) and as part of our national and international investment campaigns. c) Exploring Access to Finance: We will promote funding opportunities, such as grants and loans, to help businesses secure the necessary capital for growth. There will be particular emphasis on raising awareness amongst business groups to promote inclusive access to financial services. This information will be added to our InvestMK website by September 2024 and will be updated as and when new opportunities arise. d) Joint Business Support Initiatives: We will develop and offer comprehensive support programs, including mentorship, skills enhancement, and advisory services, promoted on the InvestMK website from September 2024. e) Networking Events: We will work in partnership to co-host and support quarterly networking events, business forums, and workshops to promote opportunities within the city, and further facilitate connections between businesses, investors, industry experts, and the governing authority. We will commence these events in September 2024. f) Work with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) to promote Milton Keynes internationally, as an investment destination. We will target a presence at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) in Abu Dhabi in May 2025 and the FDI Expo in London in November. g) Joint Marketing Campaigns: We will launch marketing campaigns to highlight Milton Keynes as a prime investment destination, utilising DBT's global reach and influence, and participate in DBT-led international trade missions to promote Milton Keynes to a global audience. This will be aligned to DBT's activities and will take the form of creating MK marketing collateral for inclusion in national campaigns and canvassing for MK businesses to be showcased in national and international campaigns. Monthly meetings will be put in place with DBT to ensure our investment pipeline and DBT's campaigns are aligned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The intelligence database is still in development and not yet ready for wider public use. We have successfully provided tailored insights in response to business and investor requests. We are collaborating with South Midlands colleagues to develop a South Midlands Investment Website and are considering launching a joint CRM platform to improve data and intelligence sharing. b) The content of the website has been reviewed and an update completed. Business and place-focused promotional videos from the AI Festival will be added to the website as part of these updates. c) Key information on financial services and funding options has been added to the InvestMK website. The website will be updated regularly with new funding opportunities to support business growth. d) The content and structure of Invest Milton Keynes led programmes are being finalised and remain on track to be promoted on the Milton Keynes-Invest website by March 2025. We continue to work with local institutions on skills enhancement, including as members of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Technology. e) We continue to participate in local networking events to build relationships and identify key stakeholders. Feedback from these events will inform the structure of InvestMK led networking events. Events have included MK College Green Skills Launch (October 2024), South Midlands Investment Forum (November 2024) and Bletchley Networking Evening (monthly recurring). f) Collaboration with DBT is progressing. In October 2024, we hosted a Brazilian business delegation. In December 2024, we met the Lithuanian trade and commercial team and are exploring hosting a visit to Milton Keynes in late 2025. g) Efforts to involve local businesses in DBT-led campaigns and trade missions are underway. A DBT USA visit in February 2025 featured meetings with key businesses in Milton Keynes to showcase success stories as part of developing a UK investment proposition. Monthly meetings and investment pipeline data exchanges with DBT have begun, ensuring Milton Keynes is well placed to achieve more international visibility.
13	Work with partners to create a vision, improvement and investment plan for the future of CMK.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the CMK development framework following feedback from the MK City Plan 2050 Regulation 18 consultation stage - by end of 2024. b) Include policies within the MK City Plan 2050 to support delivery of the CMK development framework and adopt as a sister document to the MK City Plan, alongside adoption of the Plan in 2026. c) Work with MKDP as major landowner and any delivery partner(s) on emerging development proposals for CMK, the timing of which will depend on the outcome of the OU's Campus 2030 project. d) Work with our Business Case Retained Consultants to develop an overarching strategic outline case for CMK to show the social, economic and environmental benefits created by investment and interventions in CMK, and which builds in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) and b) Feedback received relating to the CMK policies and the CMK Growth Opportunity Study through the Regulation 18 MK City Plan 2050. The responses will be used to revise and finalise the study and the local plan policies. Further work is also being done in relation to tall buildings/city centre skyline to inform policy development. c) Engagement with MKDP on key development projects continue, including new public art and public realm improvements at Station Square, and joint working on the OU's Campus 2030 project.

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		<p>consideration of other key CMK projects (for example the Justice Quarter (action 91), the Midsummer Boulevard Greenway/MRT route (action 109), Tech Quarter (action 8), Events Venue (action 21) and Campbell Park Green Bridge). To be completed by April 2025.</p> <p>e) Use the overarching strategic outline case to feed into the production of an investment and improvement plan which identifies and coordinates pipeline of CMK activity, projects and interventions proposed for delivery across city centre partners and that identifies indicative costs and funding routes, by December 2025.</p> <p>f) Decision to agree how we move forward with delivery of the Investment and Improvement Plan in February 2026.</p> <p>g) Build stronger relationships across city centre partners throughout the delivery plan period, to encourage collaboration and joint delivery where possible.</p>	<p>d) Strategic Outline Business Cases (SOBCs) are in preparation for the Justice Quarter and the Midsummer Boulevard Greenway projects. These will consider a range of delivery approaches. Both SOBCs will be completed by March 2025.</p> <p>e) Development of an overarching Investment and Improvement Plan will be progressed once the Strategic Outline Cases are complete.</p> <p>f) No update at this time.</p> <p>g) Partnership working with key city centre stakeholder organisations continuing.</p>
14	Work with MKDP to improve Station Square September 2024	<p>a) Ask MKDP to finalise the improvement plan by September 2024 and share this us.</p> <p>b) Support MKDP in any way we can to complete improvements by December 2024.</p> <p>c) Collaborate with MKDP on an event to celebrate the improvements at Station Square in March 2025 and say thank you to the people involved.</p>	MKDP completed the technical design of the improvement works and tendered the contract in December 2024. The contract was awarded to Frosts Landscapes. The works are due to complete in June 2025 and a mural has been proposed by artist Yinka Illori which will be applied towards the end of the programme. MKDP are working with the council to plan a launch event for July 2025.
15	Start on site to deliver the Wolverton Agora scheme in early 2025	<p>a) Bring the updated business case for a decision (Cabinet of DD) in January 2025 and to Full Council in February 2025 (budget considerations).</p> <p>b) Do some works on site (foundation, tree protection or similar) by January 2025 to make sure the planning permission stays live (with a plan to start on site Spring 2025 with a two year build programme).</p> <p>c) Aim for a planned completion of Summer 2027.</p> <p>d) The linked public realm works will be delivered in phases, St George’s Way car park will be the first phase to be completed in October 2025, which will ensure there is parking provision prior to the main car park closing for development.</p>	<p>a) Significant areas of the design have had to be reworked to consider the requirements of the Fire Safety Act, this has included looking to minimise risks from the phased rollout of the Act as it becomes applicable to the scheme, particularly its handover to residents. By example, this has included the removal of wooden cassette floors and changing cladding details. It has also included the removal of the microgrid due to complexities in fitting this technology into the scheme without excessive additional costs to meet fire safety requirements. Some solar will likely still be required on the scheme to meet planning requirements. Other design delays have included a new requirement for the installation of drainage attenuation tanks and to amend drainage flow rates following liaison with Anglian Water as part of discharging the planning conditions. With these design delays and allowing for the process of tenders returns (pricing) to be robust through December 2024 to February 2025, we are now expecting the new business case to be finalised in late February 2025 and to go to an April 2025 or early May 2025 Cabinet decision, subject to the approval of the business case. We are engaging with Homes England on potential brownfield and affordable homes grants options to support to support the viability of the project.</p> <p>b) Minor enabling works confirmed with Planning were implemented as required by January.</p> <p>c) Subject to governance approval, the project team are aiming for completion Summer 2027.</p> <p>d) The linked public realm works/St George’s Way car park will still be the first phase to complete, but later than initially planned.</p>
16	Involve local stakeholders and create a Bletchley 2050 guide for regeneration of the area	<p>a) By July 2024 the Town Deal team will co-ordinate the production of a consolidated vision and linked branding to support the delivery of the Town Deal programmes which runs until March 2026.</p> <p>b) The coordinated vision and branding will form the basis for engagement with residents and businesses, over the summer of 2024, on plans to improve the public realm of Queensway and Saxon Street in Bletchley and Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford.</p> <p>c) Alongside the consultation on the town deal projects, there will be a 12 week period (from mid-July to early October 2024) on the MK City Plan which has a specific policy on the regeneration and growth of Central Bletchley.</p> <p>d) Both of these consultations will provide an opportunity to find out the opportunities that exist for regeneration in the period beyond the current Town Deal programme.</p> <p>e) Further engagement will take place with local stakeholders, the Town Deal Advisory Group, the town councils and ward members between November and December 2024. Engagement will primarily be through face-to-face meetings, although some digital tools may be used to supplement these discussions.</p> <p>f) A new guide, capturing the longer term vision and plan for regeneration, will be produced, in draft, for February 2025 to accompany the second consultation draft of the MK City Plan 2050.</p> <p>g) Once consultation is complete a decision (Cabinet or DD) will be bought forward in April 2025 to approve the Bletchley 2050 guide.</p>	<p>a) This has been achieved. The consolidated vision and linked branding supported consultation on two key Towns Deal project: improvements to Queensway and the redesign of Saxon Street. Action fully complete.</p> <p>b) This consultation concluded in September 2025. Action fully complete.</p> <p>c) 12-week consultation on the MK City Plan 2050 took place over the summer 2024, concluding in October 2024. Action fully complete.</p> <p>d) The results of the consultation on the MK City Plan and the Towns Deal Projects will feed into the development of the 2050 vision. Action fully complete.</p> <p>e) Consultation support was successfully procured, and engagement commenced in December 2024. The delivery of several stakeholder workshops and public engagement sessions took place as planned.</p>

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17	Develop a new Creative and Cultural Strategy	<p>a) Between July 2024 and September 2024: Remind stakeholders that we have agreed a refreshed set of strategic cultural priorities. These will be shared via the Arts and Heritage Alliance network, the Cultural Leaders Forum, through specific updates to partners such as Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund and will be published on the MKCC website and social media.</p> <p>b) Consult between September 2024 and March 2025 on a new Creative and Cultural Strategy, working with the agreed strategic priorities. Consultation will include a creative consultation with residents, a sector/stakeholder workshop and a council committee.</p> <p>c) Produce the draft new Creative and Cultural Strategy by July 2025.</p> <p>d) Consult on the Creativity and Cultural Strategy July – September 2025 and then formally adopt by Delegated Decision in October 2025.</p> <p>e) Once achieved, a sector/stakeholder event will be arranged to mark its adoption and the launch of the new strategy.</p>	<p>a) Strategic refreshed priorities have been shared via the Arts and Heritage Alliance Network – which includes the Cultural Leaders forum. They have also been shared with Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund. Our culture web pages have been updated. Action fully complete.</p> <p>b) Consultation plans finalised and sector engagement until March 2025 in collaboration with the Arts and Heritage Alliance. Additional consultation with stakeholders, partners and a series of resident focus groups also planned.</p> <p>c) No update at this time.</p> <p>d) No update at this time.</p> <p>e) No update at this time.</p>
18	Support for the MK International Festival	<p>a) Continue to be a member of the Festival Advisory Board to provide support and challenge.</p> <p>b) Following internal consultation with councillors and colleagues (July to October 2024), provide specific, written feedback to help inform the festival team's thinking and the new festival contract (MKCC/IF), which will include target audiences; priority locations for programme delivery and themes that resonate with city council priorities.</p> <p>c) Take a Delegated Decision in October 2024 to approve the IF festival contract.</p> <p>d) Once the 2025/27 contract is finalised and agreed, a press release will announce support for the Festival and will be supported by a 'signing' event and publicity.</p>	<p>a) The Director of Planning and Placemaking is a member of the Festival Advisory Board and has attended three meetings for the 2025 International Festival.</p> <p>b) Consultation undertaken and specific feedback shared with the festival team. This feedback will form part of the Festival Grant Agreement as an MOU.</p> <p>c) A Delegated Decision has now been taken and Festival contract approved for the 2025 edition. A press release announcing confirmed support for the 2025 festival has been issued.</p> <p>Action now complete.</p> <p>d) A press release in August 2024 announced the Council's support for the 2025 summer festival.</p> <p>Action now complete.</p>
19	Continue to deliver the five-year Smart City Digital, Tech and Creative Industries Strategy	<p>The Milton Keynes City Technology, Smart City, Digital and Creative Industries Strategy (2024/29) was approved by delegated decision in March 2024.</p> <p>a) By November 2024 we aim to publish a smart city action plan that will deliver against the goals and objectives in the strategy.</p> <p>b) By March 2025, we aim to complete a review of our existing smart city infrastructure (including our private 5G network, city-wide sensors, CCTV cameras and data exchange), to provide a solid sustainable foundation for delivering future projects.</p> <p>c) We will continue to deliver existing smart city projects (a) MK Drone: exploring how drones can ensure quick delivery of medical equipment and tests across the city (project due to complete in March 2025 and (b) StreetCAV: testing autonomous shuttles in our city centre to ensure the safety of vehicles, pedestrians (project due to complete in March 2025). We will consider next steps in scaling and commercialising these services as each project nears completion.</p> <p>d) Working with our tech ecosystem partners and contacts that have been established through our world-leading smart city projects; seek ways to broaden the consortium of smart city partners and expand focus from transport into healthcare and sustainability. This links with Council Action Plan 25 (MKSmart) and Council Action Plan 114 (Sustainability Strategy). New Partners to be in place by March 2025.</p> <p>e) Three new city-wide smart city projects to be launched by September 2025.</p>	<p>a) The Smart City and Innovation Action Plan was adopted through Delegated Decision and published December 2024.</p> <p>Action now complete.</p> <p>b) The review of the City's innovation structure was completed in January 2025.</p> <p>Action now complete.</p> <p>c) Following issues with suppliers and regulations, the drone project has been re-scoped for more limited trials in MK. The StreetCav project continues on schedule with mapping complete and initial trial runs expected March 2025.</p> <p>d) Bid completed for the next phase of StreetCav pilot to test commercialising services in the city. Workshops took place in January 2025 to expand current focus on transport out into other service areas, including a drone workshop taking place with colleagues responsible for emergency responses.</p> <p>e) The Smart City Experience Centre officially opened November 2024, as part of AI festival week.</p>
20	Work with MK Dons to deliver a training and academy facility for our city	<p>MKDP will be engaging with MK Dons about the future proposals for the Bowl and the provision of training facilities. A report will be bought back to Cabinet as and when an update is available.</p>	<p>Following the sale of MK Dons announced in August 2024, the new owners are considering their plans in respect of training and academy facilities.</p>
21	Progress a business case for an events arena in the city centre	<p>We will work with MKDP to further build on the existing feasibility study and business planning work to develop a five-case compliant Business Case for delivery of an events venue in CMK by October 2024.</p>	<p>A business case for an events venue has been completed. The next stage is for the MKDP Board to consider the business case and next steps, this is scheduled for March/April 2025.</p>
22	Introduce two new city centre events , one at the Summer	<p>a) Midsummer Festival – a free, family-friendly event planned for June 2024. With a programme of music, performance, dance, creative making workshops, puppets and street-food. The target audience number is 3,000 for the inaugural</p>	<p>The first Midsummer Festival was successfully delivered in June 2024 with six new commissions. Over 7,000 people attended over the course of day and evening; exceptionally positive feedback. A 2025 festival has now been announced has been</p>

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	Solstice and one during the winter	<p>Festival. Feedback will be gathered from audiences during the day and the success and reach of the publicity campaign measured.</p> <p>b) Winter Solstice will include a newly commissioned light spectacular. The target audience number is 4,000 and feedback will be gathered from audiences and the success of the publicity campaign measured.</p> <p>c) This feedback will inform the programme and target audience numbers for the 2025 Midsummer and Winter Solstice festivals.</p>	<p>shared, including four new open call commission opportunities for local artists and creatives. Winter 2024 light spectacular was achieved in through the 'City of Code and Light' event held in October in city centre and Campbell Park. Action now completed (for 2024).</p> <p>Planning for a 2025 event underway.</p>
23	Support Bedford Borough Council, if needed, to assist in promoting the regional economic benefits of the proposed Universal Studios development	<p>a) When East West Rail commence their statutory consultation on the new/enhanced rail line from Milton Keynes/Bletchley to Bedford, and onto Cambridge support for Bedford Borough Council as they make the case for important new rail stops adjacent to the park's entrance. This consultation was planned to commence in June 2024.</p> <p>b) By September 2024, utilise the partnership of local authorities that together comprise the Central Area Growth Board to provide a formal letter of support for Bedford and the Universal Studios proposal.</p>	<p>East West Rail consultation closed in January with the City Council responding. We have continued discussions with Bedford Borough Council on all transport interlinks between Milton Keynes and Bedford. A formal letter of support for Bedford and the Universal Studios proposal was submitted. Action now completed.</p>
24	Develop a pilot scheme to ensure all children born in our 60 th year in 2027 can attend at least two cultural or arts events before they start school	<p>a) Between January and June 2025 research similar schemes (including Helsinki) and develop a local scheme outline. Explore opportunities for securing external funding to deliver the scheme.</p> <p>b) During August 2025 consult with residents and amend scheme following feedback.</p> <p>c) Discuss the scheme outline with partners between September and October 2025.</p> <p>d) Bring a costed scheme forward in December 2024 and if necessary secure funding for the scheme in the 2025/26 budget round.</p> <p>e) Aim to launch on 1 January 2027.</p>	<p>a) Direct engagement with Culture Kids leads in Helsinki and Vantaa took place in December 2024 and January 2025 alongside exploratory conversations with local partners and stakeholders. Work is now underway on options for delivering a scheme in 2027.</p> <p>b) No action at this time.</p> <p>c) No action at this time.</p> <p>d) No action at this time.</p> <p>e) No action at this time.</p>
25	Continue to build on the success of MK:Smart , in partnership with the Open University	<p>a) Start the new phase of promotional work for MK:Smart in August 2024, including public-facing work that raises awareness about the projects and findings of MK:Smart.</p> <p>b) Continue joint working on delivery of the Open Societal Challenges programme, with potential joint announcement of winning projects at October 2024 AI event.</p> <p>c) Pursue opportunities to embed this partnership further in the development of the OU Campus 2030 project.</p>	<p>a) MK:Smart was promoted alongside the first round of Open Societal Challenges in August 2024. The Open Societal Challenges programme is a research initiative where businesses and charities submit important challenges facing society for funding and support from OU researchers. The programme includes a Milton Keynes specific competition.</p> <p>b) The winning projects for the first round of Open Societal Challenges were announced in our October AI event. The winning Milton Keynes projects include research on the benefits of Green Roofing, and research to support the adoption of Dementia Friendly planning in new development areas.</p> <p>c) MK:Smart is a key element of the MOU that has been signed by MKCC and the OU.</p>
26	Build on our emerging role as a centre of innovation and develop plans for an annual AI event in the city	<p>a) Hold an AI summit anniversary event in October 2024 and October 2025, to be delivered in partnership with organisations throughout MK (e.g. currently working with Open University, Bletchley Park, Connected Places Catapult).</p> <p>b) Co-ordinate six-monthly high-quality networking and workshop events for educators in the tech field, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and potential and current investor through tech eco system project over the two-year period June 2024-March 2026.</p>	<p>The Milton Keynes AI Festival 2024 successfully took place 28 October – 1 November, with over 2,300 attendees. 13 partners worked with Milton Keynes City Council including the OU, PWC, HMGCC and Santander to deliver the week. The week attracted significant media attention from the BBC, ITV and MSN. The council hosted a VIP reception for tech leaders with Bletchley Park, and attendees reported a high level of satisfaction with the weeks experience, 93% on average. Action now completed (for 2024).</p> <p>Key stakeholders are being contacted and planning is underway for Milton Keynes Tech Week in 2025.</p>
27	Progress the new public art memorial to Alan Turing	<p>a) Complete the final stages of the engagement and development process for the Alan Turing Tribute Commission by September 2024.</p> <p>b) In September 2024 bring forward a decision to confirm funding.</p> <p>c) If approved installation will take place in November/December 2026.</p> <p>d) The opening of the tribute will form part of the city's 60th birthday celebrations in 2027.</p>	<p>a) Community engagement and research and development now complete. Artist Nick Ryan has now been contracted to deliver the commission.</p> <p>b) Resources have been secured from s106 and from the Towns Deal Public Realm Budget. An application to Arts Council England will be made for the remaining funding.</p> <p>c) The timeframe for delivery should see the commission being installed in December 2026.</p> <p>d) The commission is on track to be launched as part of the city's 60th birthday programme.</p>

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28	Commission a new statue to honour Open University pioneer Jenni Lee in CMK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Following the main work on the Alan Turing memorial (Action 27), initial work on this project will take place between January and March 2025. This will include engagement with the Open University, family members if appropriate and stakeholders. A brief for the statue will be developed and approved following this initial consultation stage. b) Any capital funding will be requested as part of the 2025/26 budget round alongside investigation into any available s106 contributions. c) The development period for the statue will then follow between April 2025 and December 2025. d) Installation will take place by April 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Initial research and development is now underway. This work include the review of potential funding to enable the project. b) No updates at this time. c) No updates at this time. d) No updates at this time.
29	Work with partners to submit a bid to the Arts Council for the MK60 celebrations in 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Set out a framework for the development and submission of Arts Council England (ACE) application for £900,000 which sets out how communities, the sector and other stakeholders and partners will be involved and feed-in to the development of a year-long programme of activity. (November 2024 – April 2025) b) Identify sources of match-funding. (November 2024 – April 2025) c) Establish a sector and community representative steering group to oversee the development of the application, chaired by the Portfolio holder for Culture. (By January 2025) d) Draft bid to be developed from Spring 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Following engagement with Arts Council England they have now confirmed that the place-based fund is available and that they are expecting an application from us in Autumn 2025. b) Potential match-funding has been identified from cultural wellbeing developer contributions. c) Approach to establish a steering group reflective of both the sector and communities agreed. Terms of Reference in draft for approval, with a view to establishing the group in March 2025. d) No updates at this time.
30	Deliver the first tranche of affordable homes at Tickford Fields by January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enter the development agreement with the preferred developer (Vistry) by July 2024. b) With detailed planning in place, Vistry will confirm the delivery programme. c) We will bring forward a linked decision in July 2024 which will include the option for us to sell units when released to us by the developer, which was part of the deal. d) We will challenge Vistry to submit a detailed planning application by April 2025, engagement will be through the usual planning process. e) We will aim to facilitate a start on site date of January 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The land deal arrangement has been legally complex, particularly the structural arrangements for the return of around 285 built affordable homes to us. MKDP have been supporting this process. Various legal matters have continued to delay the close of the contract. Work is ongoing to complete the agreement. b) No updates at this time. c) The decision to enable the sale of affordable units from Tickford Fields was taken in July 2024. This action is complete. d) No updates at this time. e) No updates at this time.
31	Build truly affordable homes for local young people and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will bring forward a decision in July 2024 for the procurement of a contractor for the site of the former Cripps Lodge to take a scheme (66 new Council homes) through the Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) and design and build process. b) If successful, we will aim to take a decision to appoint a developer in March 2025 c) We aim to facilitate a start on site date in Summer 2025, with a two year programme completing in Summer 2027. 	<p>A Delegated Decision was taken in July 2024 to procure a contractor to complete the designs and price 66 new Council homes at the former Cripps Lodge site in Woughton. This £29.2M project is in part financed by using £13.7M of right to buy ('one for one') receipts.</p> <p>We received a positive response to the tender, with several bidders. The tender closed in December 2024 and the submissions reviewed. Final clarifications were issued and returned in January 2025. We expect to be able to appoint the preferred contractor in February/March 2025, with around a 24 month construction programme – the preferred bidders programme will finalise this.</p>
32	Ensure that the delivery of affordable housing is prioritised alongside critical infrastructure in all new planning applications	We will continue to make decisions on planning applications in line with our planning policies, which currently require the delivery of 31% affordable housing in schemes of 11+ dwellings. As part of our ongoing monitoring, we will report on affordable housing completions, alongside the delivery of other tenures of housing, every six months: October 2024; May 2025; and October 2025.	<p>Decisions on planning applications continue to ensure that the delivery of affordable housing and critical infrastructure is maximised. This includes defending planning appeals (e.g. 23/01634/FUL) where a shortfall in affordable housing and infrastructure contributions was not sufficiently justified. Additional contributions have been negotiated on developments where applicants have initially indicated their scheme is unviable and unable to make any contribution towards affordable housing (e.g. 21/00725/FUL and 24/01299/FUL).</p> <p>The recording of Affordable Housing completions and tenures forms part of our 6-monthly monitoring process.</p>

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33	Continue to deliver the maximum number of council homes we can and make the case to government to fund even more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Aim to deliver 66 new council homes at the site of the former Cripps Lodge (Refer to action 31), making best use of our Right to Buy receipts and means we do not have to pay them back. b) We aim to generate capital receipts from surplus asset sales and consider our priorities; either or a combination of dealing with asset condition (decency), improving energy performance of poor performing asset (more SHDF) or building new homes on sites later in the disposal programme. c) We will continue to meet regularly with Homes England to understand new funding streams which can support us taking forward new sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Refer to action 31. b) A Delegated Decision was taken in July 2025 for the ongoing sales process for surplus HRA and GF assets listed within the decision over a phased period of three years. Initial sales (phase one to three) have been completed. c) Our engagement with Homes England is ongoing. The most recent site visit was organised by us for Homes England and MHCLG in February 2025.
34	Tackle bad landlords by ensuring private tenants can easily report safety issues in their properties and crack-down on unregulated HMOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In September 2024 we will deliver a social media campaign targeting tenants in the private rented sector focussed on how to complain about the standard of accommodation and who to contact if the landlord complete repairs and what to do if the resident is being illegally evicted. b) We will engage with 100 private landlords in November 2024 in partnership with the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) to promote best practice. c) Between September 2024 and March 2025, we will focus on identifying new and/or unregulated HMOs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run four HMO action days informing residents on HMO regulation and how to identify and report unregulated HMOs. Target areas - Ashlands, Broughton/Brooklands, Fairfield/Whitehouse and Newton Leys. - Use data held by MKCC to identify and investigate unregulated HMOs for example Council Tax data on student accommodation or multiple liable parties and waste services data on excessive waste complaints. - Take enforcement action against HMO landlords who refuse to comply with the Licensing Scheme or where they refuse to licence. d) Complete all 149 HMO licensing inspections that are due in 2024/25 to ensure continued compliance with the licence conditions. e) Take enforcement action to remedy category one hazards ensuring compliance with health and safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Social media campaign now planned for early 2025. b) Landlord Forum organised for 10 March 2025 with NRLA in attendance. Focus remains on Renter’s Rights Bill and on changes to HMO licensing. c) Progress to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one action day took place in Ashland, two more are planned - twenty one properties from the 50 possible HMOs which had been identified from council tax records and excessive waste data have been investigated. To date, one unregulated HMO has been confirmed from this list. d) 69 new and renewal HMO licensing applications have been received in 2024/25. There are currently 503 licensed HMOs, 80 informal improvement requests have been issued to HMO landlords for compliance. 139 HMO licensing inspections have been completed to date. e) Eleven enforcement notices have been served since April 2024 with compliance being monitored by the Private Rented Sector Housing Team.
	Develop a permanent facility for rough sleepers and crisis service to ensure support 365 days of the year	<p>The aim is to open new 24/7 accommodation with support for people who are rough sleeping in MK to replace the Old Bus Station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We aim to develop a new operating model between July and October 2024, along with any contract/service specifications necessary. b) People who are currently staying in current building we aim to convert will be decanted into new settled accommodation from December 2024. c) We aim to open the new facility by the end of March 2025 along with an official opening event will be held at this time. d) MKCC Property Services will be supporting with the decommission the OBS building, including agreeing any dilapidation and remedial works with MKDP. Notice on the lease will be served in March 2025 for surrender in November 2025. 	<p>A new model of 24/7 accommodation with support for people who are rough sleeping support and accommodation has been developed. This built on our learning of operating the Old Bus Station (OBS). The tender for the OBS replacement then went live in October 2024. The contract has now been awarded and mobilisation meetings are in place for contract to go live from 1 April 2025. A task and finish group are now overseeing arrangements. The event is being planned for March 2025.</p>
36	Push for all new greenfield sites allocated in the MK City Plan to include 40% affordable homes	<p>The first draft (formally known as the ‘regulation 18 draft’) of the MK City Plan 2050 will be consulted-on for 12 weeks from July 2024. It includes a policy that requires new greenfield strategic allocations to include 40% affordable homes. These sites are generally more viable and can deliver larger numbers of affordable homes that meet our identified needs, particularly for two and three-bed houses, when compared to more urban and city centre sites. Subject to consideration of consultation responses, and additional site-specific evidence, this policy would then be incorporated into the regulation 19 proposed submission MK City Plan which would be published for consultation in February 2025. Once the regulation 19 consultation period has ended, responses will be considered, and the final draft of the MK City Plan will be submitted to Government by June 2025 (see Council Action Plan 48). The attainment of 40% affordable housing on greenfield sites will be monitored every six months alongside delivery of affordable housing across other site typologies (see Council Action Plan 32).</p>	<p>The draft (regulation 18) MK City Plan 2050 was published for public consultation between July and October 2024. It included an affordable housing policy (Policy HQH2) that seeks 40% affordable housing on the strategic expansion areas proposed areas proposed for allocation in the plan.</p> <p>This is supported by a detailed viability assessment which has also been published alongside the draft City Plan consultation document. A Cabinet Advisory Group meeting received an update on the issues arising out of the consultation and we plan to update our Local Development Scheme which sets out the programme for preparing the plan over the next three years.</p>

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37	Fund £2m of additional new investment to our most economically disadvantaged estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deliver the final year (this financial year 2024/25) of Shared Prosperity Funding. The review and scoring of community/third party proposals has taken place, as well as the review of the MKCC work to be delivered this year, which has allocated owners to deliver each section. b) The programme links into our Estate Renewal Forums and a wide range of community groups to improve public realms, fund feasibility studies, help foster cohesive communities and improve jobs and skills opportunities. c) Examples include around £390K to improve local green spaces, £360K to enhance community engagement schemes and local regeneration projects as well as £400K for activities to provide employment support and training opportunities to improve basic life and career skills. 	<p>Work is progressing well. Community groups/partners are delivering their various projects. Community consultation has recently completed in Bradville linked to the play area improvements. Plans are also in place for improvements to various estates. £1.7M of the £2M total fund has been allocated with the plans for the remaining £300K being put in place within the grant timelines. Estate Renewal Forums have accessed SPF funding. This has helped contribute to funding local priorities. Some examples include public realm improvements in Woughton (£144k) and the 'doughnut' estates (£144k). Around £280k is being used to target early help with enabling access to employment and training. This year has also seen funding allocated to improving the Bradville play park in consultation with the local community.</p> <p>Funding has now also been announced for 2025/26 and a Delegated Decision is planned for 11 March 2025, to consider and approve the fund allocation and projects for 2025/26.</p>
38	Refresh the Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy by July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bring the refreshed strategy (already drafted) forward to be signed off by the Cabinet Member for Housing by August 2024. b) Take a decision to formalise it by September 2024. c) Update website and do some general comms on this during September 2024. 	<p>Cabinet Member has reviewed the draft strategy and has made minor amendments. The draft strategy was considered by Housing, Health and Scrutiny in September 2024. A Delegated Decision was subsequently taken on 19 November 2024 approving the refreshed strategy. Action is now complete.</p>
39	Agree a strategy for the future provision of repair and maintenance services for council owned properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We have already decided on the future provision of these services, including taking decisions and undertaking consultation to confirm the contract structures and type, along with bringing compliance back to direct delivery. b) Work is now underway, procure, appoint, and mobilise all elements of service delivery for Summer 2025, with a delegated, as required for appointment. We expect to go to market in late July or early August. c) We are aiming for a tender period and evaluation from August to February 2025 (competitive negotiation). d) We aim to award a contract in March 2025 with mobilisation between March 2025 and July 2025 e) Slippage on the timelines is possible, with a latest go-live date of September 2025. 	<p>We remain on track with the initial procurement timetable and are still aiming at contract go-live in August 2025, following a successful mobilisation. The focus of the new contract continues to be in line with the expectations of the Regulator for Social Housing; safe homes (compliant), considering the Decent Homes Standard and that we comply the Consumer Standards. Negotiation sessions were completed with bidders in January, with final bid submissions on 3 March for evaluation and moderation.</p> <p>The compliance and condition survey procurements are underway, with phased mobilisation plans aligned with the main Repairs and Maintenance Works and Services procurement.</p>
40	Complete the major £85 million redevelopment of the former Serpentine Court on the Lakes Estate by April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue the good progress made since the start of the construction build works in February for 183 new homes. b) With Comms we will provide regular updates on progress to councillors through Councillor News. c) We aim to complete all new Council homes by April 2026, as well as improving public realm and delivering new community and commercial facilities by that date. d) An opening event will be planned, similar to the sod cutting ceremony. It may be first tenant (October 2025) in and then final tenant in (March 2026). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Excellent progress continues to be made on The Lakes. The programme is still on track for initial completions in Summer 2025 and final completions in March 2026 in line with the Homes England grant conditions. We have recently had the outcome of our independent audit relating to our Homes England Grant and have been assessed as Green, with no recommendations for improvement. Alongside this, the project was visited in January 2025 by Minister Georgia Gould, (Cabinet Office). b) Newsletters (both emailed and letters delivered) are sent to residents on a frequent basis. Our contractor also sends a monthly newsletter, and weekly update on likely impacts to local residents and councillors. Alongside this, there is a microsite for the project which is managed and updated by our works contractor. c) The contractor remains on target to complete all homes by the end of March 2026, as per the approved programme linked to the Homes England grant, alongside the improved public realm. The community and commercial facilities will be brought forward as shell and core only. d) No update at this time.
41	Progress long-term regeneration plans for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the delivery of all the Town Deal projects by March 2026, utilising the £22.7m of Towns Deal Funding and look to agree the focus for the future phase of interventions required. Refer to more detail at action 16. b) Complete the demolition of the former Sainsbury's site by November 2024. c) Aim to have vacant possession of the Brunel Centre of tenants by March 2026, and expect that demolition would be complete by the end of 2026. d) Work with the ICB and other health partners on the options to use the former Wilko's building as a health hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Town Deal delivery on track, with all funding due to be committed by March 2026. Programme team have concluded consultation on two high-profile schemes in central Bletchley and are now undertaking detailed design work (October 2024 to March 2025) with construction expected to start on Aylesbury Street in Summer 2025 and Queensway and Saxon Street in January 2026. Work ongoing to create a Bletchley 2050 guide which will outline future development and aspirations following completion of the Town Deal until 2050. b) Demolition of the former Sainsbury's site completed in November 2024.

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			<p>Action completed.</p> <p>c) Delivery on track and work on going to achieve vacant possession in by March 2026 with demolition forecast shortly after. Transfer of Brunel Centre from MKDP to MKCC nearing completion.</p> <p>d) Initial feasibility study for the conversion of the former Wilko's unit to a health hub has concluded with dialogue continuing with the NHS (Integrated Care Board) to understand requirements and options moving forward.</p>
42	Target the prevention and reduction of serious damp and mould in council homes	<p>We will proactively produce a monthly 'trigger report' for all works ordered or cases linked to damp and mould. Each home with be visited and inspected. Actions for works will be ordered as required but quick action will be taken, such as mould washes or moves if the property is bad.</p> <p>Where any works are undertaken, we follow up each case within six months to make sure we've fixed the root causes of damp and mould.</p>	<p>We have updated our processes in relation to damp and mould. The updated approach develops our practice in line with current best practice. Enhancements include attending cases of damp and in 14-days, sooner the contracted 28-day time for routine repairs.</p> <p>We are now tracking in detail each case in terms of work done and effect. Resources have focused on progressing works quicker following thorough inspections. We have improved our understanding of how best to identify and follow up on reported cases and we are working on access challenges which are a significant blocker to our progress with neighbourhood housing colleagues. Work will now be done to review the resources to manage the volume and quality of works (both within MKCC and the new contract).</p> <p>We also completed our damp and mould self- assessment with some policy and training actions identified to follow up on across housing services.</p>
43	Continue work with Woughton Community Council to develop plans for improving community assets, public spaces and continue to develop improvement plans for the area	<p>a) We will implement a Public Realm Improvement Programme across Eaglestone, Netherfield, Coffee Hall working with the Community Council on areas for improvement. The programme and milestones will be confirmed by September.</p> <p>b) Working with the Community Council we have identified 12 areas for improvements, this can be produced and agreed with WCC. There is a focus on shopping precincts, and areas that need transformation and reinstatement. The works are mainly cleansing and landscaping, which will be completed by April 2025.</p> <p>c) These plans will also link in with the Play Area improvements in Woughton delivering one new play area and one complete refurbishment of a large play. See item 56.</p> <p>d) Linked activities within the Council Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 66 new Council homes on the former Cripps Lodge site (item 33). - Seek out opportunities for new food retail in the area. - Play Areas refurbishments (item 56). - Complete the second wave of our Council home energy improvements programme in the area (with Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding grant (item 68). - Implement flood prevention measures (item 116). 	<p>a) The programme has been agreed with Woughton Community Council. Eight projects in Netherfield, three in Coffee Hall, three in Peartree Bridge, nine in Eaglestone, two in Tinkers Bridge and six in Beanhill.</p> <p>b) The programme above covers a blend of play areas, shopping precincts and public realm assets. Woughton Community Council will assist with some of the landscaping asset improvement works as landscaping is devolved to them.</p> <p>c) Refer to action 56.</p> <p>d) Refer to other updates.</p>
44	Continue to develop improvement plans for Bradville and Fullers Slade	<p>a) No deliverables planned in 2024/25. Similar to item 33, there is no available budget within the HRA to take forward plans over and above the existing capital programme.</p> <p>b) We will continue to identify funding opportunities working with Homes England and we will look to understand new emerging Govt. policies that will help these plans.</p> <p>c) To generate budget and future options, we aim to generate capital receipts from surplus asset sales. This will take 2 to 3 years and for the HRA likely generate between £12M to £16M. With these receipts in place (a track record of sales) we will reassess our priorities; either or a combination of dealing with asset condition (decency), improving energy performance of poor performing assets (more SHDF) or building new homes on sites later in the disposal programme.</p> <p>d) We plan to improve the energy performance of around 160 homes in Bradville. Linked to item 68.</p> <p>e) Bradville does not have an established Estate Renewal Forum (ERF). The Lakes and Fuller ERFs look to take advantage of community-based grant funding pots with the support of the housing regeneration engagement team and links in other council areas such as Public Health. Establishing the Bradville ERF will be subject to the availability of resources and our priorities.</p> <p>f) The Fullers Slade ERF is established and performing well.</p>	<p>a) Bradville Estate Renewal Forum (BERF) has been formed and is has led on the consultation to improve the existing play area, making use of Shared Prosperity Funding. The improvements to the play area are underway and the ERF has been concentrating on Bradwell Windmill Project which focuses on Heritage, food and nature, bringing the local community together. Alongside this we have been working with the BERF to help engage with residents who will see their homes improved under Council homes energy improvement project for over 1,500 homes in the city.</p> <p>b) Fullers Slade ERF (FSERF) continues to be active and has seen a new chair appointed this year Several events and activities improving community cohesion and inclusivity have taken place with more planned. Some examples of these include regular events to help tackle loneliness. A new women's football club has been set up. Alongside this there have been other successful events ranging from a Community Iftar (over 50 residents) to celebrating Black History Month (over 100 residents) and various seasonal activities at Christmas and Easter. Over 300 residents attended the Summer Fete. The FSERF has engaged with over 500 residents in the past year and has recruited 8 volunteers, contributing to over 1,600 hours of volunteering.</p>

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			Like item 33, there are no plans to take forward other significant capital projects in 2025/26 as there is no available budget within the HRA to take forward plans over and above the existing capital programme and budget.
45	Ensure the delivery of a low-cost supermarket , job opportunities and estate improvements on Galley Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Food store – Complete the sale agreement by August 2024 with a start on site anticipated summer 2025 with an expected duration of nine months. b) Open the Charities Hub (refer to action 67) and create new local community space. Works to commence October 2024, following planning. c) New Special Education Needs (SEN) school site - Complete on new Woodlands school site in August 2024 ready for the new academic year (25/26) followed by opening ceremony. Refer to action 64. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Food store: Sale Agreement has now exchanged. Planning application to be submitted. There are some delays being caused by existing underground cables across the site needed to be moved and new easements created. Start on site anticipated towards the end of 2025 with an expected duration of nine months. b) A Delegated Decision was taken in July 2024 which confirmed spend approval and for procurement to start for the charities hub and for the improvements to Watling Way Centre. Procurement for these works and to open the new charities hub by April 2025 is well underway. This includes community space for residents. c) New Special Education Needs (SEN) school successfully completed in August 2024 and was opened on 9 September 2024. This action is completed.
46	Complete Phase A and continue to progress decommissioning of the REEMA prefabricated reinforced concrete residential blocks	<p>This work will require individual housing needs assessments for all tenants required followed by support to move to new home. All tenants and leaseholders will need to be kept informed with clear and regular newsletters. A dedicated allocations officer to provide single point of contact and support. Demolition Notices have been served for all three phases and these will remain in force until 25 April 2031.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the phase 1 (Argyll, Edinburgh, Sawley, Stirling) moves of 48 by Winter 2024 b) Commence phase 2 (Fife, Lanark, Lewes, Pembroke, Rutland, Waltham) moves of 72 households by January 2025 with moves being completed by Spring 2026. c) Commence phase 3 (Avon, Cherwell, Doune, Norfolk) moves of 60 households by November 2027 with moves being completed by Winter 2028. d) Conduct regular physical inspections of Phase 1, 2 and 3 REEMA properties where households are still resident to ensure they are still safe. 	<p>We have supported 42 of the 44 MKCC secure tenants in Phase One to move to a new home. Two tenants remain who have now accepted an offer of accommodation, but we anticipate moves taking place by the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Regular physical inspections and minor repairs are ongoing - the blocks are ageing as forecast.</p> <p>Work has started on the Housing needs assessment and engagement with households for Phase 2.</p>
47	Develop a targeted two-year programme to rejuvenate damaged or aged infrastructure and landscaping in residential areas surrounding the city centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) First action, to repair the ageing wing walls to the bridges over the grid roads into the ‘doughnut estates’ and to remove the aged planters at these locations by October 2025. b) Second action, to tidy up the landscaping on these estates and produce a plan for transformation of the landscaping by April 2025, to do in 2025/26. c) Third action, repair or remove damaged walls by Summer 2025. d) Fourth action, to review and identify wider infrastructure by April 2025 that requires intervention or remedial action in 2025/26. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Works to these sites are planned to commence in April 2025, linked to the first full year of programme for the new Highways Maintenance Service Contract. b) We have worked with the landscape contractor, as well as with Town and Parish Councils who undertake devolved landscaping to ensure the service specifications are understood and delivered. We will look for opportunities to use the 2025/26 Share Prosperity Funding (SPF) for improvements in line with the grant funding criteria once confirmed – for example we deployed SPF 2024/25 grant funding to rationalise and reduce landscape maintenance requirements in Conniburrow. c) No update at this time. Survey’s ongoing – an updated programme will be confirmed. d) As above.
48	Seek to adopt the new MK City Plan by May 2026 so it delivers the housing and infrastructure the city needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consultation on the draft MK City Plan will commence in July 2024 and last for around three months. As part of the consultation process, presentations will be made to key stakeholder groups including the MK Business Forum and groups of parish councils. We will also utilise an on-line consultation portal to capture comments on the draft plan. The draft plan will also be made available in local libraries. b) Following consideration of consultation responses, a regulation 19 proposed submission MK City Plan will be prepared and published for public consultation in February 2025. This consultation will be conducted in accordance with our adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Once this consultation process is complete; responses will be assessed, and the plan finalised. c) The Plan will be submitted to Government in June 2025 and current timescales for the examination of local plans suggest that adoption can be achieved by May 2026. The Examination in Public of the MK City Plan would be undertaken by a government appointed Planning Inspector who will determine the programme of the examination and the issues to be considered. d) Ongoing engagement will take place to ensure we are able to present a robust Consultation Statement, as well as agreed Statements of Common Ground with our key consultees, to the planning inspector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The draft (regulation 18) MK City Plan 2050 was published for public consultation between July and October 2024. Presentation and engagement sessions took place with the MK Business Council, MyMK Business Improvement District, MK College, Parks Trust, MK Forum and Parish Councils, and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities. In addition, thirteen drop-in sessions were held to enable members of the public to view the plan and obtain more information on the consultation. b) A Cabinet Advisory Group meeting on 13 February 2025 received an update on the issues arising out of the consultation. The next step is an update of our Local Development Scheme which sets out the programme for preparing the plan over the next three years. c) No action at this time. d) During, and following, the draft (regulation 18) MK City Plan 2050 consultation specific engagement meetings have taken place with our neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees.

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49	Work with our partners to achieve a devolution deal for our city region	An options paper on future joint working models to be presented to the Central Area Growth board in July 2024, looking to develop and formalise existing joint working. Post general election, with known position of government policy on devolution, work with partner councils across South Midlands on a devolution deal for the area. MKCC is expected to lead on this work, which will be agreed with partners at the September meeting of the Growth Board and progressed in line with government policy.	Following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper in December 2024, Milton Keynes City Council submitted an expression of interest in joining the Devolution Priority programme. Government (MHCLG) announced in February 2025 the six areas to be taken forward in the priority programme. Our area was not one of them, but we have been encouraged to continue with the development of our plans for resubmission at the next opportunity.
50	Continue to develop business case for an integrated Advanced Rapid Transport (ART) and Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Mass Rapid Transport System will be completed in October 2024 and will be a key component of the Local Transport Plan which will be taken to Delegated Decision for start of consultation in October 2024 and to DD for adoption in January 2025. b) The OBC for the MRT also forms one of the background papers for the MK City Plan 2050, which will be consulted-on (at Regulation 19 stage) in February 2025. c) Work is underway to investigate how the ART and MRT systems can be brought together as part of a world-leading regional and local transport offer. The ‘linking’ piece of work will be completed by September 2025, for inclusion within the LTP and MK City Plan. d) Delivery of the Rapid Transit system will be informed by the new Government’s approach to franchising of public transport and will also be informed by our ongoing discussions with Government on the level of funding that the Department for Transport could invest in the scheme. 	Work has been completed on both a Strategic Outline Business Case for the city-wide Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system and a report on a regional Advanced Very Rapid Transit (AVRT) system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) MRT Outline business case (OBC) was completed in January 2025. b) A route map for MRT has been included in the Regulation 18 submission of the MK City Plan 2050, and the full OBC will be available to inform the Regulation 19 draft. c) Arup has been commissioned to undertake an AVRT/MRT integration study. d) A report on franchising has been commissioned (Arup) to inform the implications for the council of taking more control over bus services.
51	Invest £90m in junction improvements by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the outline design (and several consultation) phases on 7 initially identified junctions during 2024/25, including Monkston, Brinklow, Crownhill, Loughton, Bleak Hall, Knowlhill and South Grafton. b) We will Develop and commence the rolling implementation programme from early 2025 onwards. Subject to consultation, two or three will start each financial year with the initial seven being completed by 2027. c) Additional junctions will be added to the programme in subsequent years, with an estimated ten or more junctions in total implemented by 2030 (subject to final build costs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We’ve completed the outline options for all 7 initial junctions, and we are now progressing on preliminary and detailed designs. We’ve also completed detailed plans for Brinklow Roundabout, and we’re working on preliminary plans for Monkston Roundabout. We’ve agreed both schemes on the works programme for 2025/26. Brinklow Roundabout advance works commence 17 February, with the main works planned in Q1 2025/26 – the final start date depends on the advance works. Monkston Roundabout is planned to commence in Q3 2025/26. Crownhill and Loughton Roundabouts will follow on and are planned to start in Q3 2026/27. We will arrange regular progress updates with relevant ward councillors for the schemes as they approach work phases. b) As above. c) Feasibility assessments have now been undertaken for additional junction locations, and we are progressing these options for each junction to preliminary designs. These are being developed further for final delivery designs, with a view to works to commence for completion before 2030, as per the Tariff grant conditions.
52	Protect and enhance grid roads, redways and community green spaces , including Kingsmead Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The draft MK City Plan 2050 includes a policy on “Movement and Access” that seeks to protect and enhance the grid road network. It would also require proposals to create redways that provide direct, safe, well lit, convenient, and attractive walking and cycling connections. b) Other policies seek to protect and extend our network of Linear Parks and other green/open spaces. These will take forward the approach set out in our existing local planning policies within Plan:MK. c) Consultation on the draft MK City Plan will commence in July 2024 (see Council Plan action 48). d) It is expected that the planning application for Shenley Park, which includes an access through Kingsmead, will be determined by September 2024 (this aligns with, and is dependent upon, timescales proposed by Bucks Council for the determination of their application). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Movement and Access policy was consulted on as part of the Regulation 18 MK City Plan 2050 consultation and feedback from residents and businesses was positive. It will now be taken forward to the next stage of the plan b) The Linear parks and green space policies were consulted on as part of the Regulation 18 MK City Plan 2050 consultation and feedback was positive. They will now be taken forward to the next stage of the plan c) The consultation took place as scheduled (see Council Action Plan 48) d) An extension of time for the proposed cross-boundary development at Shenley Park has been granted up to June 2025, this aligns it with the Buckinghamshire Council element of the application. Buckinghamshire will need to determine their application before we can consider ours.
53	Launch a new online planning portal by October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A user group, which includes councillors, has been established and is helping to inform the public facing portal for viewing and commenting on planning applications. b) We aim to complete system configuration over July/August 2024. c) User testing is scheduled for early September 2024 before we ‘go live’ later that month. d) A training programme will be rolled out over October and November 2024 to support both colleagues and customers using the system. e) Publicity announcing the new system and highlighting our investment will take place in late November 2024. f) Regular surveys will be carried out and accounts of our customers’ experiences will be sought between September 2024 and March 2025 to ensure that the system fully meets the needs of our users. 	User testing of the system took place over August/September and the new portal went live on 1 October 2024. A lessons learned session was held on 16 January 2025. The new system has already sped up the issuing of planning decisions, with 122 decisions issued in the week ending 31 st January, compared to a weekly average of around 60. Action now completed.

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54	Develop plans to provide more SEND placements in a brand-new facility by September 2024	We aim to open the new high complex needs provision at Galley Hill for 16 pupils with an opening event planned for the September 2024 new school year.	Our new high complex needs provision at Galley Hill has received its first students in September 2024. Action now complete.
55	Refresh our children and family centre offer	Our approach to refreshing our children and family centres offer will be to widen our reach across the city, whilst delivering a broader range of services beyond the 0-5 offer. a) In July 2024 we aim to publish our response to the consultation and the proposed offer from September 2024. b) We then plan to bring forward a decision (Cabinet or delegated decision) on 6 August 2024 to formalise changes. c) A proposed launch event in September 2024 will be used to highlight and raise awareness of the new model.	Following development of a new model and subsequent consultation work, a range of changes were agreed in August 2024 (through a delegated decision) and have been fully implemented. Communications to explain the new model included events for schools at the start of the 20-24/25 academic year. This has evidenced a positive impact with increased events and footfall across our Family Centres with 37K people accessing our Family Centres in the last quarter which is a 13% increase prior to our change. Action now complete.
56	Invest £200k in 2024/25 to improve local play areas	a) We will undertake a programme of painting and rejuvenation of 15 Play Areas across Fishermead, Conniburrow, Oldbrook and Bradville starting in July 2024, and completing by April 2025. b) Works will be communicated with Campbell Park and Great Linford Parish Council with publicity opportunities for ward Councillors. c) We will aim to deliver a new play area in Coffee Hall by December 2024 with dedicated publicity (Point 57). d) In addition, we plan to undertake a series of refurbishments to of five play areas (Woughton, Bradville, New Bradwell, Monkston, Shenley Lodge) which we aim to have completed by April 2026.	a) Cleaning, painting, and wider landscape works, surfacing improvements completed in some areas; new equipment ordered and started installation in November 2024. All works will be completed by the end of March 2025. Several locations are waiting for the when the weather improves. b) Fishermead play area was completed in December 2024. Great Linford play area works are to commence in June 2025. c) See update at action 57 a). d) Woughton has Tin Man refurbishment complete and Pear Tree Bridge completing before the end of March 2025. New Bradwell School Street complete. Monkston started in December 2024 and Shenley Lodge (sundial) work programmed in for mid-2025.
57	Deliver an accessible play area in Coffee Hall	a) We aim to have the design work completed in July 2024. b) Once confirmed and ordered, it will be 8 – 10 weeks for the equipment to arrive, and 4 - 6 weeks to install with a target opening by December 2025. c) We will organise an opening event, weather permitting, with an opportunity for Ward Councillors, Portfolio Holder and community councillors to attend.	Plans are progressing. Woughton Community Council are carrying several consultations with their residents and PACA (Parents and Carers Association). Our initial timeline has needed to be extended to accommodate additional consultation. Designs are on track to be agreed by the end of March 2025 followed by equipment ordering. The new play area to be completed by the middle of 2025.
58	Improve the fostering service and increase the number of foster carers	a) We propose to have 12 new foster carer applications in assessment by September 2024. b) We plan to approve 15 new carer arrangements by March 2025. c) We will support the launch Regional Fostering Recruitment Hub as part of wider Southeast government funded pilot in July 2024 to promote foster carer recruitment. d) In September 2024 we will launch partnership arrangements with 'Home for Good' to promote fostering amongst the faith community. e) By March 2025 we will be aiming to have introduced our first Mockingbird carer hub (aimed at reducing isolation foster carers can feel and develop peer and support networks).	In December 2024 we received an Ofsted 'Good' judgement for our children's services, with particular reference to our fostering service. a) Since April 2024 we have had two successful foster carer approvals, with nine applications in progress, so are one behind our target but should these progress to approval would increase our in house foster care bed sufficiency by 16 placements. b) We have approved 11 new carer arrangements to the end of January 2025, with a further 5 booked into panel prior to year end, so project 16 in total by year end. c) The Southeast Fostering Hub launched as planned in July 2024 which, complimented by our MK recruitment campaign, has to date shown approximately 30% more enquiries than last year. d) Partnership arrangements with 'Home for Good' started in September 2024 to promote fostering amongst our faith communities. e) We have held our first Mockingbird informative session with carers and are on track for launch in March 2025.
59	Work to develop extra provision of youth support and activities with partners	a) We will increase the number of community providers holding our safe practice mark to ensure that all MKC supported youth provision offered is of a high standard with safeguarding robust across this offer with an increase from currently accredited 17 providers to 27 providers by March 2025. b) We will be looking at the National Youth Agency peer review recommendations to see what can be progressed within current budget constraints.	a) We have strengthened our city-wide collaboration to support the increase take up of the Safe Practice Mark. b) The NYA Peer Review recommendations have been considered within our service developments across the Children's Services Senior Leadership Team, in

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) As part of our universal early help offer, we will develop support for young people in need of access to youth provision, through an expanded delivery from our Family Centres. d) We will maintain our focus on young people who are not in education, employment or training with tracking and good advice and guidance. e) We will continue supporting the Youth Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> our developments in Contextual Safeguarding and young people advisory and participation arrangements. c) The wider developments to support our offer to young people through our Family Centres is now in place. d) We continue to perform well in our education, employment and training outcomes and will continue to ensure strong guidance and robust tracking in the new academic year, our 16 to 17 years old NEET evidencing 2.5% compared to a national position of 3.1%. e) Our Youth Council continues to go from strength to strength and is well engaged with strengthening the voice of children and young people with 12,486 voting in the February 2025 election across all 15 maintained schools.
60	Improve and extend our SEND short break service	<p>We aim to make the focus of the next two years the modernisation and expansion of our short break capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To take this forward we will undertake consultation with users of the current Furze House short breaks service by the end of July 2024. b) We then aim to undertake staff consultation planned on proposals during October and November 2024. c) If agreed, we plan to transition to new arrangements in autumn 2025 with the aim of increasing the current short breaks capacity by 20% by March 2025. d) Separately, we plan to launch on-line short breaks voucher system to replace previous system in line with parental feedback by the end of July 2024. e) We aim to extend 'holiday activities with food (HAF)' provision for children with special needs for two weeks over the Summer 2024 to widen short breaks opportunities. 	<p>In close liaison with our Parents and Carers Forum we continue to develop our short breaks capacity and have ensured focus on this area of the service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A constructive Furze House consultation took place in July 2024 to consider capacity and feedback with all the 38 families that were accessing Furze House. b) Engagement work with our team at Furze House took place in Autumn 2024 with further engagement planned to align with wider proposed developments in our internal children's homes proposals. c) Modelling is currently being progressed to analyse the capacity and type of short breaks arrangements that would be most beneficial in expanding future delivery. d) An online short breaks voucher system was launched in July 2024 with parental feedback received both through PACA and wider users which will inform further improvements in collaboration with parents and carers to widen the menu of activities and number of short break providers. e) This was successfully delivered in Summer 2024 to 3,000 children with positive feedback from many parents and SEN children involved.
61	Increase mental health support by working with the BLMK Integrated Care Board and CNWL to improve mental health services for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will work with CNWL and the ICB to deliver and evaluate a pilot project offering community-based early intervention support for children and young people's mental health delivered by Service Six and Relate (June 2024 to March 2025). b) Public Health will lead the procurement of a lower-level early intervention children and young people's emotional and mental wellbeing service with a service specification at a contract value of £150k per year developed by October 2024; Provider to be appointed by January 2025; Go live April 2025. c) Work with partners (CNWL, ICB and CVS) to develop and implement a single Point of Access for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health, making it easier to access the right support in a timely way. Scoping and changes - July-October 2024; Development – October-March 2025 and Go Live – April 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The pilot project was launched as planned in June 2024 and will be evaluated in April 2025. b) Partnership discussions have started for this to be progressed in timescale set. Public Health have progressed the delivery of a children and young people's emotional and mental wellbeing service due to go live in April 2025. c) Partners are progressing development of the proposed Single Point of Access together to deliver as planned in April 2025. A Joint "Partnership Lead" role has been appointed between CNWL and MKCC to progress work further.
62	Continue to expand our help and support for care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deliver a new dynamic purchasing system (DPS) and Block contract framework by September 2024 to increase the range of accommodation available to us for care leavers. b) Increased support for care leaver apprenticeships to access roles within the Council by March 2025 through increasing the number of care leavers taking on apprenticeships from two to five by March 2025. c) Increase diversity and numbers of care Leavers on Raise Your Voice (MK's Children in Care Council) by 30% by December 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Our new DPS and block contract framework is now in place increasing care leaver accommodation options. b) We are showing success in employment, education and training amongst our care leavers and are on track for five care leaver apprenticeships by March 2025. c) We are developing our Raise Your Voice Council. In the recent Ofsted inspection our Care Leavers Service was judged to be 'Outstanding' with young people's feedback recognised as a strength.
63	Deliver a business case to invest in our central library and improve the range of services available from our library network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Internal group working on this proposal and will set out a detailed project plan, with clear milestones, by October 2024. b) Project plan to establish the scale of works required, funding sources and the timeframe for the preparation of the business case to support the proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A project group is in place and a detailed project plan has been bought together. b) The resource and spend approval and to convene a procurement exercise for Capital works was agreed at Delegated Decisions in December 2024 with the main contract works to take place between February – October 2025 to ensure the agreed scheme is delivered prior to Winter 2025. This will ensure the library is watertight and will increase opportunity for the building to be more flexible in its use, including improved accessibility for children and families with a new lift.

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64	Introduce breakfast clubs across schools in Milton Keynes, with pilot scheme starting in September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Audit current breakfast club provision across all schools in Milton Keynes by July 2024. As part of this work identify and share good practice around breakfast club provision. b) Identify three to five school to take part in a rapid pilot break to begin in September 2024. c) Pilot site to start breakfast clubs and test what works well to provide a good food offer, and to promote good uptake – capture the learning in December 2024. d) Consider options for wider roll out to more schools in January 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The current breakfast club provision was audited in the summer term (2024) leading to a good understanding of the current provision. b) Seven schools have been identified to participate in the Early Adopters scheme. c) Further schools are ready to work in collaboration to consider learning from any pilot undertaken. d) All schools have been aware of this approach and will be part of the consideration of options going forward but are waiting further clarity from the Department for Education. Three MK schools have been identified as “test and learn” schools and will received funding to start up clubs from April 2025.
65	Extend the Holiday Activity and Food Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deliver free events to more than 3,000 individual children and young people in 2024. b) During the first week of summer activities identify over 1,500 children with FSM to engage in activity sessions. c) Identify families with children who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) and engage them providing a wide range of free activity sessions from basketball and netball to cookery and trampolining. d) Between 31 July and 24 August 2024, provide sessions including high quality food and at least four hours of activities and deliver events across over 50 locations in Milton Keynes, with a wide range of sports, crafts, cookery, music and other activities for children of all ages. <p>Note the arrangements for 2025 will depend on continuation of the government funding</p>	<p>We successfully delivered our HAF events to over 3,000 individual children throughout the summer of 2024. This was achieved through close partners working with a wide range of providers, working out of around 50 locations across the city. Action now completed.</p> <p>Government funding for 2025 has been confirmed and arrangements are currently being progressed.</p>
66	Continue our mortgage interest rate scheme	Continue to offer a mortgage interest scheme for residents of Milton Keynes who are at risk of homelessness (The scheme is based on temporarily covering mortgage interest payments as opposed to paying off the capital sum).	The mortgage interest scheme for residents is available. We will continue to offer this support to households who are at risk of homelessness due to mortgage arrears.
67	Continue our partnership with the Foodbank , including supporting their relocation to a new hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree a lease/contract with MK Foodbank ahead of their occupation as ‘anchor tenant’ in the refreshed building at Galley Hill in April 2025. Ensure the city council one-off funding set aside is all accounted for and not carried forward. b) Hold an event to mark the occupation of the building, and the partnership with the MK Foodbank and other charities who will be using the space in June 2025. c) Review and decide on the long term future of ‘Xtra’ by July 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lease agreed with anchor tenant (MK Foodbank) providing sustainability enabling the Food Bank to continue to support families with emergency food support and longer term top-up shop provision. MK Foodbank will create licenses for Baby Basics and Girl Pack. Building works on target for completion in March 2025 to allow the charities to move in. External works and landscaping will continue unt summer 2025. b) Other tenants on track to move in by April 2025, with a ribbon cutting ceremony to taking place with all charity partners Food bank, Baby Basics and Girl Pack in June 2025. c) CLT decision on future of XTRA to be taken in April 2025.
68	Insulate more homes to cut energy bills for low-income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement the second wave of our energy improvements programme on around 1,500 of our Council homes (with support funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund). b) This programme will commence on site by September 2024 with appropriate communications with residents and publicity. c) Completion is expected Winter 2025, with around 150 homes having works completed each month. d) The programme means work will be live at homes across estates starting at Netherfield and then moving to Tinkers Bridge, Bradville, and at other individual homes which are more widely spread but have specific challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Delegated Decision was taken in July 2024 confirming the scope of delivery and high-level programme for the delivery of energy improvements for over 1,500 Council homes, supported by the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) wave 2.1. This includes full fabric replacement of roofs, cladding, windows, and doors to properties across Netherfield, Tinkers Bridge, Bradville, and The Lakes. Around 800 ‘wider’ properties across the city will receive lower grade energy related improvements, i.e. solar panels. b) The programme commenced in August with ongoing engagement based on the programme progression. For example, drop-in sessions occur on a weekly basis on Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge, where both tenants and Ward/other councillors receive up to date progress information. The contractor also attends these sessions to provide detailed programme/build information. c) As before. d) Other improvements happening on several wider estates too. Planning permission was granted for works to 48 homes on the Lakes estate and those in Bradville. Works to a trial property on Tinkers Bridge have also commenced. Several drop-in sessions have been held, with more planned. e) Works are live across both Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge, alongside several on wider estates. We have been offered an extension by the SHDF grant body of the programme to January 2026, subject to several factors being met. We believe this will create a sensible contingency and plan to work with the grant

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			body on this. We still expect to deliver the planned number of energy upgrades to over 1,500 Council homes.
69	Maximise efforts to mitigate the financial impact of Temporary Accommodation placements on the council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create new public interview facilities at the Civic and have them fully open by July 2024. b) Deliver on the Homelessness Processes Action Plan by the end of December 2024, which includes work to improve our prevention. c) Review our housing allocations policy to determine whether it is fit for purpose. d) Strengthen our relationships with MK Act and TVP so we are able to work together on things like national refuge placement searches and, where possible, supporting victims of abuse to safely stay in their own homes. e) Open a new accommodation centre in addition to 'nightly lets' by March 2025. f) Identify further improvements and produce a second version of the Homelessness Processes Action Plan by April 2025 and complete implementation by December 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New homelessness interview facilities at Civic were created and are now in use. Action now completed. b) The Homelessness Processes Action Plan is completed. It led to a reduction of around 40% in temporary accommodation placements when compared with the same period in 2023. An increase in homeless preventions and a reduction in the number of homeless applications without a decision. Action now completed. c) The housing allocation policy public consultation closed in December 2024 with a Delegated Decision on the new policy taken on 7 January 2024. The new policy has now been implemented. Action now completed. d) Work with MK Act has delivered an agreed process for referrals to and from the council including access to refuge spaces. This has improved access to refuges, although the supply continues to be challenging across the country. Roles and responsibilities have been clarified including an agreement how the IDVA roles will work with the MKCC Housing Solutions Team. The IDVA role now assists with sourcing refuge accommodation nationally. Action now completed. e) Harben House opened in September 2024 for up to 140 households for short term use as temporary accommodation whilst a decision is made on a homeless application. Colleagues provide daily support to households to assist with move into settled accommodation and is a successful model in highlighting all housing options available including offers of housing in the private rented sector. 96 Households currently occupy Harben House. Since Harben House opened we have successfully moved on 31 households into the private rented sector and an additional nine households have moved either to an MKCC secure tenancy or have been nominated to a housing association. Action now completed. f) A second version of the Homeless Processes Action Plan is being developed with an emphasis on reducing the use of high cost 'nightly let' temporary accommodation placements whilst ensuring we are maximising housing supply to assist with moving on households to settled accommodation.
70	Develop a business case and identify a site for a new, second domestic abuse refuge	Working in partnership with MK Act we are aiming to increase the available refuge capacity for victims of domestic abuse. Currently there are 28 places are available in Milton Keynes. We are anticipating a further 20 will be required. This follows a comprehensive needs assessment that was undertaken in relation to forecasted demand for refuge places. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board will oversee the work required to progress the development. We aim to have developed our business case by November 2024, which should include the identification of a site. We will then aim to bring forward a formal decision in March 2025 to allocate the identified site for use as a new refuge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A business case is now in the process of being finalised with planning colleagues in relation to the new refuge. b) Land has been provisionally identified and the resulting business case, building on the strategic need assessment, will determine the benefits to a new refuge. An architect has been engaged by a partner housing association in relation to the land that has been provisionally identified. It is anticipated that pre-planning discussions will take place during the summer of 2025. c) A planning group has been established involving the domestic abuse commissioned service, housing association and local authority to progress the work required. The planning group involving the domestic abuse commissioned service, housing association and local authority meets bi-monthly to progress the work required.
71	Implement the 'Q:Framework' of training and resources and improve support for LGBTQ+ young people	<p>We will organise funding for Q:Alliance to continue to deliver mental health and wellbeing services for young LGBTQ+ people. This includes developing and implementing the Q:Accreditation scheme. The Q:Accreditation scheme will provide a framework for schools to work towards to improve inclusivity for LGBTQ+ young people. We will set a target to implement the Q:Accreditation Scheme in all local secondary schools by March 2025. Our funding will also enable a LGBTQ+ Youth Outreach Practitioner will continue to work with young people providing one to one and group sessions to support wellbeing and build resilience.</p> <p>We will also provide space for a LGBTQ+ youth group to meet weekly at the Central Library through term time to strengthen support for young people.</p>	<p>Three more schools are working towards the Q:Inclusion accreditation scheme since October 2024. A total of 15 schools, including three special schools, and MK College are now engaged in the scheme.</p> <p>The Youth Outreach Practitioner continues to work directly with LGBTQ+ young people through schools. They also work with a core group of young people through the Q:Hub drop-in sessions at the Central Library.</p>

Council Plan - Delivery Plan 2024/2025

Planned management actions: October 2024 – February 2025 Update

72	Support local groups and events that encourage quality and diversity	We will continue to fund and support local umbrella organisations (CIL, council of faiths etc). Both CIL and Council of Faiths are given £5k each a year for consultation work and to support their groups.	Funding continues to be provided to both the Council of Faiths and Centre for Independent Living (CIL) for the Disabilities Advisory Group (DAG) for consultation work and support. We continue to support groups and events that support and celebrate our diverse city, including the successful inaugural event to celebrate Inter Faith Week on 12 November 2024 and the series of events held at libraries for Black History Month. We celebrated Tamil Heritage Month and marked occasions like Diwali and Lunar New Year. We will celebrate International Women's Day, and we have reminded colleagues that we have a BSL translation service accessed through our website.
73	Continue to work to make Milton Keynes a Dementia Friendly City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The new contract for the dementia support service started in April 2024, as part of the contract there is a requirement to deliver more community-based activities and work in collaboration across the system to improve people's outcomes. The contract will be closely monitored each quarter. b) We held a dementia event on 26 June 2024 and 40 people attended, compared to 80 people in 2023. The event will be held again in June 2025 with a dedicated comms approach to encourage more participants, with a target of 100 attendees. c) A local dementia group involving key stakeholders including clinicians and people with lived experience is under development having been identified as a gap through local engagement. The group will be operational by August 2024. We aim to the group will be held quarterly. d) Research work will continue during 2024/25 with the Open University to look at how digital and technological options can be used more widely to support becoming dementia friendly across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The new contract for a dementia support service is working well. Demand for the service is high with 62 referrals received for people living with dementia and 183 referrals for carers. An extra carers support group is being planned at the Specialist Memory Service. b) Our dementia event in June 2024 was a success with 40 people attending. We will target 100 people to attend the 2025 event, which we plan will be incorporated into the launch of the new carers model during Carers Week in June 2025. c) An initial meeting of the local dementia group has taken place. Membership of the group is under review ensuring there a clear links to other groups within adult services. The group meet quarterly, and meetings are booked in advance. d) The work with the Open University is continuing with a questionnaire about living in Milton Keynes being shared across the city by OU researchers. The questionnaire will go to all households and digital options will be offered, such as access to WIFI. There is no date for the findings yet due to delays with committee sign-off.
74	Protect core services from cuts and innovate new ways to deliver local services	<p>The first part is a political action.</p> <p>For the second part we will establish a panel by November 2024 to develop new applications for technology (including AI) in service delivery, with an aim to lower costs. The panel will engage with services to identify opportunities, evaluate return on investment (ROI) of proposals, recommend access to the council's 'invest to save' reserve and share learning across the organisation.</p>	<p>Technology and AI was a focus of a session with the wider leadership team in June 2024 and a report was shared with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in January 2025, outlining the proposed new approach to innovation in both the Smart City programme and within the organisation. It was agreed a new Smart City and Innovation board will be formed to progress the innovation agenda and explore more trials within the city. We will also invite key external partners to be part this group.</p> <p>Meanwhile we continue to introduce new innovations to support service delivery.</p>
75	Protect weekly bin collections	Support the Cabinet Member take an early delegated decision in June 2024.	A Delegated Decision was taken on 18 June formally confirming that weekly black refuse collections will be retained until at least May 2026. This action is completed.
76	Review our Customer Services to ensure the best possible experience for our local residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carry out a rapid internal review by the end of July 2024. b) Share review and action plan with cabinet member by the end of August 2024. c) Deliver on all action points from the plan by December 2024. d) Report on performance to Group Chairs and Cllrs (via <i>Cllrs News</i>) with the cabinet member receiving monthly updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Internal review complete. b) Report and action plan shared with cabinet member. c) Most action points complete, some ongoing but will be complete by March 2025 d) Monthly reports are shared with the cabinet member and CLT <p>This action is completed.</p>
77	Use new technology and improve communication and efficiency to reduce the number of unnecessary repeat enquiries	<p>Develop AI process automation to read the contents of all customer service emails and sort/direct to appropriate back office system or direct them to appropriate colleague, to be fully live by March 2025. This will be piloted during that period to refine the parameters, so it will not be obvious to those using the email – intended outcomes are emails being responded to quicker and with better responses. Performance will be monitored, especially response times and avoidable contact, and reported to CLT and cabinet member. Target to reduce avoidable email contact by 20%.</p> <p>We aim to continue to shift queries towards self-serve and responsive information, enabling shared email inboxes to be reduced. This is working with the planning inbox, looking at building control.</p>	<p>Following the in-house development of an AI plug-in called AIAn, we launched a trial working on the customer service inbox on a number of themes.</p> <p>We will have metrics from the trial once it completes at the end of March 2025 where we anticipate that the generative learned AI model will reduce avoidable mail contact and improve the wait time for customers.</p>

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		Councillor casework app has been developed in Power Apps that will automate queries which we aim to make live by December 2024. Councillors will be able to use the app to send in queries using forms to make it easier for them and using AI process automation to read contents as above. Efforts will be made to try and integrate with new waste app.	On self-service, through the work on the 'Customer Charter' a new set of informative messages have been developed that will inform customers about the expected timescales for the completion of the work for the more transactional 'report it' tasks. For the Cllr Casework mobile app for Cllr casework which we will start to trial with Cllrs from the end of March 25.
78	Fix more potholes and use innovative technology and AI to improve our roads, redways and pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will purchase a new and innovative pothole repairing machine in August 2024 that enables more potholes to be repaired faster and in a sustainable way, utilising recycled materials to improve the condition of the roads and redways, whilst reducing overall disruption. Publicity is planned for the delivery of the machine in October 2024. Updated performance will then be collated through Q4 2024/25. b) We aim to deploy drones and AI analysis tools to identify defects quicker and in a safer and less disruptive manner to enable quicker and proactive repairs. c) Use AI for planning and programming works as well as for customer works updates, providing quicker and better information to the customers when enquiring about works progress or programs of work. This work will support and feed into item 77. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Delegated Decision was taken in July 2024 which gave spend approval of £100K to purchase an innovative and tested 'Elastomac' pothole repair machine to better deliver pothole repairs, be approved. This equipment was delivered in September 2024. The Elastomac machine has now been utilised for several planned works programmes already, with data being collected on the improved efficiency and impact benefits to maximise the improvements and proficiency of works on the highway network. Over 1,000 potholes have been repaired using the machine since its purchase to the end of December 2024. b) Drones continue to be used successfully where suitable for inspections and assessments of structures and works progress, informing communications and safer ways of working as well as improving efficiencies. c) See action 77.
79	Begin an investment programme to renew and repair aging streetlights and traffic signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will complete the final elements of the LED upgrade programme (grid road roundabouts) by October 2024, whilst utilising the 'central management system' to improve response times to identified lighting defects, without the need to have costly and disruptive 'scouting' for faulty lights and reduces the need for the public to report defects. Publicity highlighting all of these elements and detailing the energy/environmental improvements will be launched in October 2024 to coincide with substantial completion. b) A further review and performance feedback, including targeted dimming proposals will be undertaken in 2025/26. c) We aim to modernise and upgrade obsolete and aged traffic signal infrastructure across 15 key sites, including the replacement signal heads and control units, to improve reliability and resilience of our signals by March 2026. d) We will explore and implement the use of AI and other technologies to support the effective management of traffic across the city once the new traffic signals are installed. Doing this will also support the major tariff junction improvements, making them more efficient and support Government Funding for Milton Keynes Highways. The upgrading of obsolete signals is programmed to commence in Q4 2024/25 and will complete in 2025/26. From then ongoing installation will form part of the new tariff junction improvements from 2025 onwards (refer also to action 51). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) LED conversion program substantially complete with 98% of conversions undertaken and remaining works will be undertaken as business as usual, i.e. the grid road roundabouts – more lighting units were identified for conversion than was originally detailed in the agreed programme. The programme of replacement has significantly reduced the amount of customer contact, and we have also now stopped contractor scouting (saving £72k per yr.), using the remote contract management system to manage reports and issues. b) Lighting management options for further energy and carbon savings are being developed as part of the overall approach to carbon within the new Highways Term Maintenance Contract. c) A programme of traffic signal upgrades covering 18 junction sites has been confirmed, with 15 schemes funded from our grant from DfT and three schemes. Due to worldwide key components shortage, 6 upgrade schemes have been completed to date, the remaining 9 schemes will be completed by September. d) A new central control system that will use AI technology to balance traffic flow, delays and emissions across a network of junctions has been agreed and is progressing to a Delegated Decision in April 2025.
80	Commission our new £35m a year council housing repairs and maintenance contract by summer 2025	Refer to action 39 'Agree a strategy for the future provision of repair and maintenance services for council owned properties'	
81	Bring critical council property oversight, quality and management functions back in-house	Commence the procurement for the direct delivery of electrical testing, asbestos, fire safety, water hygiene, commencing in late July and appointing and mobilising new contracts Summer 2025. This includes the TUPE supervision.	Alongside the re-procurement of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) Service, we chose to directly procure specific areas of health, safety and compliance. This was to give us direct oversight of these functions and allow us to better deliver our new regulatory responsibilities. Our approach is covered with the procurement of the following Compliance Contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legionella and Water Management 2. Fire Door Replacements, Renewals and Repairs 3. Fire Risk Assessment Remedial Works 4. Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) 5. Fire Door Surveys 6. Asbestos Inspections 7. Condition Stock Surveys

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			This gives us direct control over each item. The remaining areas of compliance will be with the R&M Service Contract, as they are better delivered by the preferred contractor. 1 to 3. above will be awarded by January 2026. 4 to 7 will be awarded by August 2025, in line with the go-live of the new R&M Contract.
82	Continue to improve derelict garage sites in West Bletchley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will complete the surveys underway of all our garage sites in July 2024, with clear proposals for next steps (Amanda Griffiths leading with Alison Cook). With a plan in place, it is proposed to move management to the Assets team. b) Within that work, we aim to specifically review of all West Bletchley garage stock condition by August 2024. c) We will discuss and agree plans with the cabinet member by the end September 2024. d) We plan to bring forward a decision to confirm works and resource need by December for delivery to commence in early 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Condition surveys were completed for all our garage sites in September 2024. This was delayed while we focussed on other Council Plan Priorities. This information was collated and responsibility for garages transferred to Property (Environment and Property) in November 2024. Property is developing an asset strategy and management plan for all sites for Q1 2025/26 - this will balance the commercial opportunities and take a local view on garage blocks along with ownership (HRA or General Fund). b) West Bletchley sites will be prioritised as part of the management plan. The Cabinet Member will receive proposals for these sites by May 2025. c) We will present the initial draft asset strategy with the Cabinet Member by June 2025. d) We plan to bring forward a decision to confirm works and resource need by September 2025, for delivery of the wider programme to commence in early 2026.
83	Investigate improvements to the Rowle Close garage site in Stantonbury	<p>The site is not owned by MKCC and has historically been subject to regular flytipping and ASB/drug use. A compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is an option to take control of the issues but that will not be straightforward and resource intensive for a small site. It is also difficult to land a case with certainty of winning. We plan to discuss this with relevant councillors by October 2024 and agree a way forward. Meanwhile, we plan to continue our CCTV surveillance and enforcement actions at this site which have reduced flytipping and ASB.</p> <p>We will continue to clear flytipping as and when needed. We will revert to our ASB team and TVP with any records of ASB or drug taking recorded during our CCTV works.</p>	<p>CCTV has regularly been in place since April 2024 on this private land. This has helped lower ASB to a degree. As and when needed we attend to collect fly-tipping.</p> <p>Property have conducted an initial assessment of the merits of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). We are also considering what other options we may have and to exhaust them. We will brief the Cabinet Member in February 2025.</p>
84	Establish a Safety, Theft, Anti-social behaviour, and Retail Crime Taskforce and START to take back our streets	<p>A stakeholder group chaired by the cabinet member will be set up by October 2024 which will focus on supporting small business, primarily retail. The group will consist of two representatives from the BID Crime Taskforce (retail and night-time economy) for CMK, two reps from Bletchley (parish and business) and two reps from North Mk (parish and business), as well as TVP Neighbourhoods lead, Police and Crime Commissioner retail crime lead and small number of MKCC colleagues. The focus is on 'high streets' and will be about responding to retail crime as well as other types of theft, for example bike theft, that affect businesses.</p> <p>An action plan will be developed by January 2025 (to allow for consultation with businesses) to be implemented over 18 months, with some quick wins expected in first few months.</p>	<p>A stakeholder group chaired by the Director of Customer and Community Services was formed in September 2024 and is meeting regularly. Membership includes representation from the BID Crime Taskforce (retail and night-time economy) for CMK, representatives from Bletchley and Fenny Town Council and Stony Stratford, as well as TVP Neighbourhoods lead, Police and Crime Commissioner and several council colleagues.</p> <p>£40k of funding has successfully been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner's partnership fund to support initiatives, and an action plan is being finalised that will be agreed on 19th Feb that focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting individuals responsible for prolific ASB and aggressive begging Graffiti prevention Further business engagement and support with technology to reduce theft, ASB and work with the night-time economy.
85	Campaign for more police , community support officers and visible community policing across Milton Keynes	This action is politically led.	
86	Focus on tackling and preventing knife crime	<p>Continue to implement our serious violence strategy action plan including transition plan for VRU funded projects, and renew strategy, action plan and strategic needs assessment in March 2025. Will monitor any future govt initiatives.</p> <p>Key projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise counter-narrative publicity campaign by October 24 and review impact - Evaluate focussed deterrent, hospital, school and custody navigators as schemes end in March 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The counter-narrative publicity campaign now expected to be completed by Spring 2025 - The focussed deterrent, hospital, school and custody navigators schemes have been evaluated, all of these are being wound down or alternative funding being sourced. <p>Action completed</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violence against women and girls and knife crime education being undertaken by Safety Centre over 2024/25. This is funded from PCC fund, 10k for knife crime education, target is 1060 children which will be achieved soon. 25k for VAWG over two years with target of 1200 children. - Fund MKDons SET (10k) to train local community members to become youth workers and set up community youth groups, 69 participants to date - Knife crime fund being set up by Oct 24, this will be 100k to spend over two years and be distributed to voluntary sector groups by Community Foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and knife crime education being undertaken by Safety Centre over 2024/25 continues, as of November 24, 702 children from years 6, 7 and 8 had participated in a classroom-based session, and this is on track. - Funded MK Dons SET (£10K) to train local community members to become youth workers and set up community youth groups, 69 participants to date. Project is now complete and the trained youth workers are now facilitating youth club and outreach sessions. <p>Action completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knife crime fund of £100k has been launched. Two projects have been funded. To date, these are a project aimed at building trust between emergency services through mosaic making at the Blue Light Hub, and a mediation service for children at the edge of care.
87	Take a no-nonsense approach to aggressive street begging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to work with the Thames Valley Police on enforcement activity including potential injunction. Monitor the work the BID are starting (My Local Bobby) and if successful see if we can support it further. b) Between September and October 2024 we aim to improve our understanding of when and where aggressive street begging takes place. Following this we will explore enforcement options (again) with Thames Valley Police. c) Between September and December 2024 we will try to inject some life into the alternate giving campaign. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The launch of the BID's My Local Bobby scheme is having a positive impact with businesses reporting a reduction in individuals involved in aggressive begging b. Exploring the establishment an operational group to identify individuals with a view to considering need for support or enforcement, learning from successful approaches in other LA areas. c. Seasonal alternative giving campaign took place in the run up to Christmas with digital advertising in key areas in the city centre and at Milton Keynes Central station, media coverage was positive
88	Use all powers to move on unauthorised encampments as quickly as possible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will continue to expedite evictions and trespassing notices through legislation and work to support the Police on the implementation of their new powers. b) We aim to deliver our ongoing target hardening programme for defending land from unauthorised incursions by spending £50K a year for next two years aiming to protect the top five most affected areas that have had incursions. 	<p>Since April 2024 there has been one instance of the council having to use the new powers.</p> <p>We installed over 300 metres of protective bunding on V5 Great Monks Street in September 2024 and we are updating our plans for areas for future incursion prevention.</p>
89	Continue to drive down flytipping and littering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will refresh the Flytipping Action Plan by June 2025, focusing on a revised approach to tackling flytipping with a focus on major flytips and commercial flytipping. b) We will focus on recurring 'hot spot' areas that might require more complex evidence gathering to ensure successful prosecutions. Our hot spots will be informed by our worse affected areas – we aim to tackle five hotspot areas per year. c) We reviewed and relet the Litter Warden service in 2023 for 3 (+2) Years. We will continue to evolve the contract scope within the procurement we undertook, for example to include additional services such as dog fouling enforcement by April 2025. d) We will review the contract scope yearly (next review January/February 2025 and add potentially one or two more activities evidenced trends and working with the Parish and Town Councils until the end of the contract in 2026. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We are currently collecting data to support the new Flytipping Action Plan 2025. Our Quartely Corporate Management Reporting continues to demonstrate that our actions are delivering low fly tipping numbers compared to our target of less than 5K reports per year. As an example, from September to end December 2024, 1,650 fixed penalty notices were issued. b) Three media releases on recent prosecution have been released since June 2024. c) Preliminary dog fouling patrols have commenced in more suburban/rural dog walking areas based on information provided by Parishes and Town Councils. d) The existing Litter Warden Contract is working well. The Annual Contract Review was undertaken in January 2025. The contract generated £181K for the Authority in 3 years, some of which is being used to fund a specialist abandoned vehicles enforcement officer role. In 2025 we will focus on the the coordination of working with Parish Council environmental enforcement activities.
90	Keep working hard with partners to clamp down on car cruising events across the city	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will continue to fully support Operation Chromium (MK specific operation to tackle car cruising that has been running since 2022). Additional roads policing resource has been committed by Thames Valley Police. We will work with the group to pilot new ways of reducing number attending and associated anti-social behaviour. b) A project to clamp down on unlicensed street trading has started and we will be supporting this throughout 2024. c) We are aiming for more prosecutions using CCTV to be made, and additional CCTV use for enforcement being pursued, with publicity when there is a successful prosecution, and messaging about those who have been prosecuted previously. d) We will consider if we can write to insurance companies if poor driving caught in CCTV – pushing for that to happen soon, but can only be done by TVP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) MKCC continue to support the TVP problem solving approach to the issue of car cruising working in partnership. Operation Defender has proved somewhat successful, with intelligence suggesting that Milton Keynes was now 'too hot' for car cruising. Arrangements in place with TVP to monitor activity in advance of a suggested expected return date in March. b) Licensing officers continue to target illegal street traders and have visited car cruises with TVP officers to engage with vendors. c) TVP continue to use CCTV footage and ANPR data to take retrospective action. d) Contacting insurance companies re poor driving and/or vehicle modifications which may invalidate insurance is still being explored by TVP's legal team.
91	Develop a business case for a Crown Court and 'Legal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) By August 2024 we will draft brief for business case development using retained consultant team, including how HMCTS, MOJ, and local judiciary will be engaged through the project, and how the work will link with a wider business planning approach for other city centre interventions. 	<p>As part of the wider CMK work and pursuant to MK 2050 mentioned in 13 above, a strategic outline business case prepared by Watermans for the Justice quarter will be ready by March 2025. It was developed with input from the local judiciary and Her</p>

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	Quarter' in the city centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) By September 2024 we step up our lobbying and will prepare a briefing note on the Justice Quarter proposal for our MPs to help raise the project up the HMCTS agenda. c) By October 2024 we will have discussed with the Open University the potential for the Law and Business School to relocate to CMK and link to the Justice Quarter development as part of the Campus 2030 project. d) We expect a Strategic Outline Business Case for the Justice Centre project to be completed by December 2024, to feed into the wider CMK work. e) We will make sure supportive policies are included within the MK City Plan 2050, as in the Regulation 18 draft plan in June 2024. 	Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). This will unlock discussion about the scale and sources of investment needed.
92	Continue to work to promote the White Ribbon campaign to end violence against women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will encourage and support more organisation in Milton Keynes to be White Ribbon accredited. We aim to increase from 12 accredited organisations to 20 by March 2025. b) We will establish a new Ambassadors and Champions group to be led by front line staff to further promote White Ribbon across the council. We aim to increase the number of 'Ambassadors' from 17 to 25 by March 2025. c) We will lead a programme of activity to mark White Ribbon Day in November 2024 and 2025 This will be in conjunction with other accredited organisations. d) We will continue to facilitate a steering group to guide this work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We have successfully increased the number of council ambassadors to 38, already surpassing our target of 25 by March 2025. We are continuing to work to achieve 20 accredited organisations in Milton Keynes – currently there are 15 accredited organisations and now 20 supporter organisations. There are currently five organisations seeking accreditation. b) We are on track to achieve 20 accredited organisations in Milton Keynes – currently there are 15 accredited organisations and 9 supporter organisations. Whilst we have already achieved our target of 25 ambassadors, having 38 in place, we continue to seek more ambassadors. An Ambassador and Champion working group is currently in the process of being set up with the first meeting scheduled in February 2025. c) The International White Ribbon Day 2024 campaign 'It starts with men' and the following sixteen days of action was successfully marked locally by a range of events and the annual vigil at MK Rose, which was supported by speeches and contributions from a wide range of city leaders and organisations. d) The steering group continues to meet.
93	Work with partners to progress three new health hubs in Milton Keynes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will open a brand new health centre as part of MK East between September and December 2025. b) We will develop proposals for two new health hubs/centres (serving established communities in Bletchley) during council year 2024/25. This work will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting NHS Property Services (national organisation) to develop our relationship (by June 2024). - Exploring with MKDP what might be possible as part of the development of Bletchley Town Centre (Towns Deal). - Working closely with the BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB) estates lead. - Producing a proposal for both centres by September 2024 to present to the ICB and other stakeholders. 	Work on the health centre at MK East is on track. A proposal to relocate Water Eaton Health Centre has been developed but this is dependent on funding, with feasibility work currently underway. Another proposal to redevelop the former Wilkos store in Bletchley as a health hub is being held back by available capital and revenue funding but this is challenging. Work continues to identify a way forward. Another option would be to design new health facilities onto the new development which will replace the current Brunel Centre and former Sainsbury's site. The council successful hosted a ministerial visit on 13 January 2025 (Minister Gould, Cabinet Office) which provided us with an opportunity to set out the case for a different approach to the management of NHS property locally. We hope there will be national consideration given to unlocking resources to enable councils to increase their involvement in developing health facilities.
94	Seek to improve access to GP services by working with the NHS to expand and improve existing facilities where needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop and launch a multi-agency campaign to increase take up of the NHS app in October 2025. b) Explore becoming involved in the Milton Keynes Primary Care Alliance by the end of September 2024, and if appropriate join the partnership. c) Continue to support the wider work to improve access to GP services through involvement in the BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB) through strong representation on the board. <p>This action links to action 93.</p>	<p>MKCC has formally joined the Milton Keynes Primary Care Alliance with Director of Adult Services and Director of Public Health as our nominated representative.</p> <p>A key part of improving GP access is using digital to its full effect. The NHS App uptake in our area is good, with data showing our local engagement is higher than other areas. The national threshold (target) for 'Percentage of GP patients registered for the NHS App' is 60%. In 2024 MK had achieved the threshold. The wider BLMK position is 53%. Of the GP practices with highest utilisation per 1,000 patients across BLMK, four of the top five are in MK.</p>
95	Continue to deliver the MK Health Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Chair the MK Deal steering group (Joint Leadership Team) during the 2024/25 council year. b) Ensure delivery on our four active deal areas (tackling obesity, improving system flow, children's mental health and neighbourhood working). Each area has a delivery plan in place. c) Scope and potentially commence delivery of an additional priority on complex care by December 2024. d) Report on progress made on each area of the deal in 2024 between March/April 2025. e) Report on progress made on each area of the deal in 2025 between March/April 2026. 	<p>MKCC continues to chair the MK Deal steering group (Joint Leadership Team) which meets every three weeks and brings very senior health and care leaders together.</p> <p>Progress on our four MK Deal active priorities continues with independent mini-reviews underway. These mini reviews are on track to be reported to the MK Health and Care Partnership in March 2025.</p>

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			The additional priority on complex care has not yet started and is now subject to a review as we look at the new government neighbourhood health policy and how the MK Deal priorities aligns.
96	Open Linford Wood Place in early 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finalise business case for the new centre by August 2024. b) Agree the specification for the centre and tender for the work by July 2024. c) Finalise service model by December 2024. d) Commission and manage works, to be complete by July 2025. e) Open the new centre in September 2025. f) Decommission existing centres by the end of December 2025. 	Progress is being made. The service model has been finalised. The business case has been written, which demonstrates a range of benefits to the new centre, and the tenders for the building refit have been returned and are being assessed. We are on track for a March 2025 Delegated Decision to appoint the contractor. It is anticipated that work to the building will be completed for opening at the end of 2025, three months later than originally identified.
97	Develop a new Sports and Activity Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scoping work and priorities will be undertaken once new Sports Partnership Officer has been recruited – this will take place in August and September 2024. b) Three large consultation events will be held September to December 2024 to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports clubs and governing organisations - Leisure operators and sports providers - Sports participants and volunteers (aka residents) c) We are aiming for the new sports strategy will be in place for March 2025, publicity will take place at the time of launch/approval. d) Strategy to be published with three year action plan, overseen by new Sports Partnership Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A new Sports Partnership Officer joined the team in November 2024. b) A draft Sports Strategy has been developed, and consultation will be taking place over March 2025 to include two large events and an update at the March parishes forum c) Strategy now planned to be agreed at Cabinet in April 2025. Action plan will form part of the strategy and will be monitored by the new Sports Development officer. d) Action plan under development
98	Look for innovative ways to ensure we maximise the potential of our leisure and sports assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will be carrying on with successful leisure asset transfer programme which has seen increased usage across all 17 buildings that have been transferred. b) We are aiming to mobilise new operators at Bletchley Leisure Centre – the new operator will be in place by October 2024. c) We will be starting wok in November 2024 on retendering new leisure contract to be awarded in February 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The successful leisure asset transfer programme continues which has seen the transfer of 19 buildings. A further two are still being progressed. Solutions are being considered for the remaining eight facilities. b) The new operators Serco Leisure are now well embedded at Bletchley Centre. New gym equipment has been installed, gym membership has increased, and some cosmetic improvements have been made to the centre. c) Work has commenced and a board established for re-tendering the new leisure contract, to be awarded in February 2026.
99	Implement the Local Authority Healthy Weight Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will carry out an audit of provision of free drinking water in key city council managed sites, and provide recommendations on how to increase this provision (by Sept 2024) b) We will promote physical activity and healthy eating support available to colleagues. This includes gym memberships and apps supporting healthy eating and physical activity. We will also consider opportunities for cross-council challenges e.g. Step Challenges that promote physical activity amongst colleagues. c) We will identify further opportunities to promote healthy weight including through the City Plan, procurement, active travel and the Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy. d) We will also work with Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH) who have signed up the NHS Healthy Weight Declaration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The preferred option to increase access to free drinking water identified through the scoping exercise is to promote locations where water bottles can be filled free of charge across the city. We are now considering the best way to take this forward. b) Nearly 100 staff have registered on the Wisdom App since October 2024, taking the total number accessing the wellbeing app to 332, and a further 89 staff are benefitting from the gym membership and online workout offers. In February 2025 we are launching a cross-council 'Walk around the World' physical activity challenge. c) The MK City Plan 2050, which included policies relating to food and health, is now out for consultation. d) Recommendations from the audit of hospital food were fed back to the MKUH Executive Management Team in January 2025. They have agreed to work towards implementing 'best practice' Government Buying Standards for Food. This will involve engaging with onsite commercial partners to meet these standards.
100	Tackle underage and illegal vapes and improve our services to help people quit smoking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) For underage and illegal vapes there will be additional enforcement following recruitment of a Vapes and Illicit Tobacco Officer, with planned additional volumes of illegal products seized, and enforcement on premises who sell products to the underage. Publicity (when reportable) undertaken each time there is a significant seizure. b) We will develop and deliver a plan to invest the additional Smoke Free Generation funding to increase the capacity and reach of our services to help people stop smoking. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work towards an ambitious target to double the number of quits by March 2026 compared to 2023/24. (50% more in 2024/2025 and 100% more in 2025/26) – awaiting numbers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Illegal Vapes and Tobacco Enforcement: 272 enforcement visits have been completed for both illegal tobacco and vapes with 2,176 illegal vapes being seized and over 20 illegal tobacco products. The Enforcement Officer has assisted us in gathering evidence to successfully execute a warrant at a home address of a suspect selling illegal vapes to children on social media. b) Investment of Smoke Free Generation Funding: We are recruiting another officer to work with housing providers, targeting support for smokers in some of our most deprived areas to quit. The online 'Kick the Habit' campaign has delivered 274,000 impressions and nearly 2,300 click throughs on social media

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase capacity in Public Health Specialist Stop Smoking Team by recruiting 6 additional Public Health Officers (resource to be shared across Central Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, and Bedford Borough) to support resident groups with the highest smoking prevalence. - Increase capacity in Primary Care by delivering specialist support via one of the new Public Health officers in targeted primary care practices across Milton Keynes. - Deliver a public realm campaign such as 'Smoke Free MK', encouraging smokers to quit and promoting the support available to them. - Pilot offering enhanced Very Brief Advice+ programme and providing an e-cigarette via the national swap to stop award for smokers with serious mental illness. This offer will be delivered via providers in primary care and community mental health services conducting physical health checks for smokers with serious mental illness. 	<p>platforms and targeted website banners since October 2024. Large advertising boards in four high footfall locations (outside the Civic, Midsummer Boulevard, Saxon Street Bletchley, and Newlands Childs Way) were used in January 2025. We have commissioned 399 places on the Allen Carr Easyway (one day quit seminar programme). We are working on proposals with MKUH to allocate over £70k to implement the cessation of smoking trial in the emergency department (CoSTED) model. This will provide support for smokers who attend the Outpatient and Emergency Departments to quit.</p>
101	Work with the BLMK ICB to improve access to NHS dentists in Milton Keynes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Work with the ICB Primary Care Prevention Lead and the dental contracting lead to develop a dental oral health prevention plan for Milton Keynes. b) We will ensure councillors are aware of progress on Department of Health and Social Care, Faster, Fairer and Simpler: our plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry (2024). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) As part of our Oral Health Promotion plan, we purchased 7,000 toothbrushes and toothpaste kits. These are given to families through Family Centres, targeted schools, Community Larders and Food Bank parcel collection sites, alongside advice on how to look after your teeth. <p>We are working with the ICB through the BLMK Primary Care Delivery Group and Primary Care Prevention Connectivity Group to identify where we can strengthen partnership working to deliver the plan and improve oral health outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) A report on oral health and dental access was presented to the Health, Housing and Adults Scrutiny Committee in October 2024.
102	Aim to be in the top 20 local councils for recycling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increasing our recycling rate to be consistently over 60% from 50% and to be positioned within the top 20 Councils for recycling in the national league table for recycling by 2026. b) Milton Keynes is currently placed at 83rd. The 20th position starts at around 57% and highest is around 63%. Our planned service changes, including not collecting side waste have all been implemented successfully. c) We will try to run (with Suez) an Artificial Intelligence trial in the UK to look at materials being placed into recycling on the back of recycling trucks. These are sensors on the back of the waste trucks – the information will be used to highlight areas/street for improvement with push comms implemented. If this works, then it has the potential to drive dedicated and bespoke communications to specific rounds / estates where there are lower levels recycling and or higher levels contamination issues. d) Over the two-year Council Plan period, we will look to migrate away from legacy media (leaflet drops etc) by delivering a dedicated Milton Keynes Waste app and aim for 40,000 sign ups in first two years from the start of 2025. e) The app will deliver push notifications to residents on recycling, bespoke communication by recycling rounds and in the future can allow HWRC bookings. f) The app was developed by Suez during our bid process as a bid promise and we plan for it to be launched by January 2025, with ongoing promotion on website and on waste vehicles. Several other high recycling authorities are looking to implement their own version of this app with Suez. It will not be ready for 20 October recycling week. It will be tested fully prior to implementation. 	<p>Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2023/24 reports recorded the council as achieving a recycling rate of over 60% (63%/61% respectively). This is likely to make us one of the higher performing councils, but until the national 'league tables' for 2024/25 are published in 2026 we will not know if we have made the top twenty.</p> <p>The waste truck sensors have been installed and the routes agreed. Launch date to be agreed.</p> <p>The waste app development has commenced and is planned to be delivered by April 2025. The app will have an initial offer with HWRC bookings and reporting included.</p>
103	Recommission our Waste Recovery Park operator contract	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete the successful re-procurement of a new contract for the entire Waste Recovery Park, striking to reduce financial and operational exposure to the Council and best utilise resources such as electricity and heat. The existing contract ends April 2026. b) The procurement will manage forthcoming legislation, particularly the Emissions Trading Act, which will impact on the cost of waste per tonne for the Authority to process and to safeguard the viability of gasification technology and the operation of the facility into the 2040s. c) Key actions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegated Decision on the proposed commercial model in October 2024. - Soft market testing with industry hosting a promotional day and one to ones with major waste contractors November to December 2024. - New and agreed commercial model inclusive of soft market testing in by January 2025. - This will confirm the procurement route and identifies the next stage and milestones for the procurement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Delegated Decision and Scrutiny completed in December 2024. Publishing procurement February 2025 with planned contract start April 2026 – the procurement will be advertised and be live on our InTend site by 24 February (prior to the new Procurement Act). b) Delegated Decision on Wolverton Campus completed in January 2025 to include an energy centre opportunity to use MKWRP heat, create a heating network, offset the Energy Trading Scheme (carbon tax) and support net zero ambitions. c) Soft market testing questionnaire and documentation completed during October and November 2024.
104	Review and recommission our	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) By August 2024 we will undertake an options appraisal to ensure that the capacity, provision, and services of our existing and/or future Household Waste Recycling Centres are appropriate for the ambitions and growth of the city. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Options appraisal completed. b) Scrutiny was undertaken in both October 2024 and December 2024 for the development and delivery of a supersite programme between 2024 and 2028. A

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	Household Waste Recycling Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) We will bring forward recommendations to Cabinet in October 2024, including the extension of the existing contract by one month to co-terminate with the Waste Transfer Station Contract in March 2028. c) The next step will be to carry out a procurement exercise, which will conclude ready for March 2028. The procurement will take around 12 months, including a 3-month mobilisation period. d) Resident updates will follow the procurement programme, i.e. the planned services on going to market and then the services procured and any added value committed to by the preferred contractor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) A communications plan has been developed.
105	Promote and champion re-use of household items through repair and upcycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Through the options appraisal outlined above (item 104), we will give weight to the opportunity to create reuse facilities that can incorporate repair and upcycling. b) Through the Environmental Service contract social value board will get a major project going to promote reuse with a charity. Suez are looking to partner with Willen Hospice to look at wider reuse programmes and initiatives through their charity shops and their wider MK network. c) With their professional experience, Suez will further support this by highlighting areas and materials for reuse to focus on. d) We will take full advantage of Recycling Week in October 2024 and 2025 to promote reuse of household items through repair and upcycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scrutiny was undertaken in both October 2024 and December 2024 for the development and delivery of a Recycle and Reuse Centre Programme between 2024 and 2028. A delegated decision was undertaken in January 2025. b) No further update at this time. c) For recycling week 2024 we promoted the excellent performance of the Waste Recovery Park both to the waste sector and locally. We also promoted the Household Waste Recycling Centres. We will work with the Cabinet Member for any plans for Recycling Week 2025.
106	Create new areas of community forest, gardens and orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will work with five Parishes who undertake devolved landscaping to train an individual within each Parish on how they can reduce use of Pesticides and Herbicides in their Parish. b) We will work on two community forests for planting, one in Spring 2025, and one in Spring 2026 using funding successfully bid from Local Authority Tree fund. c) We will aim to plant 260 trees over spring 2025. d) We will establish a 'carbon sink forest' in Old Wolverton adjacent to the Wolverton Waste Campus working with the Parks Trust with planting commencing in spring 2025. a) We will undertake a transformation of housing land, so that it can be managed sustainably either by Parishes or MKCC starting with the Lakes Estates from July 2024, linking to item 47. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New pesticides and weed control policy planned for a Delegated Decision in early 2025. b) 6,110 trees in total are planned with a planting period starting in Spring 2025. Engaging with communities on planting from December 2024 through to Summer 2025. c) 278 trees are scheduled for planting, starting in November 2025. d) Planting locations for 'carbon sink forest' now agreed with Parks Trust. e) We are working on the rationalisation of HRA landscaping to reduce future maintenance liabilities as well as improve what is there (transformation) – currently in Bradville, and then Lakes Estate from February 2025.
107	Investigate plans for a pilot EV Charge Park in one of our older towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Engage with the EV charger market (soft market testing) to establish the potential scope and commercial arrangements for a concessionary contract offer in older town charging hub, which could generate and income to reinvest in the car park themselves or get the car parks upgraded as part of the deal. This follows initial engagement, where 16 companies showed an interest in supplying and operating EV chargers in the city. Complete this by September 2024. b) If conditions are favourable, proceed to a formal decision for procurement by January 2025 to go to market for a concessionary contract concessionary planned to start in June 2025, noting mobilisation and delivery of chargers will follow on site with an agreed provider programme. c) We expect this to be up to three or four sites – one older town (Bletchley or Newport Pagnell), CMK, the Coachway, and potentially one other – the scope will be based on the soft market testing to ensure it is commercially attractive and viable to get a good deal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A second round of soft market testing was undertaken in August 2024 to ascertain market appetite and feedback on concessionary contract offering. 14 returns received outlining potential contract structure, commercial options and preferred approach. b) Market engagement completed and procurement strategy confirmed and agreed in November 2024. Outline concessionary contract parameters were included in a Delegated Decision on 12 November 2024, which set out procurement timelines for new EV contracts and delivery programme. c) Initial investigation has revealed that the National Electricity Grid infrastructure is currently insufficient in most of the old towns to create larger charging hubs. However, Stony Stratford has had a charging hub installed in August 2024, with Coachway, potentially to follow as a 'super hub', from Quarter 3 2025.
108	Encourage use of public transport by upgrading bus shelters and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will run a programme of shelter upgrades in 2024/25, consisting of approximately 10 new shelters, locations determined on an assessed condition review, with ongoing regular publicity updates to highlight the rolling programme, agreed with the cabinet member and communicated through <i>Cllr News</i>. This includes the new shelter for the hospital (1 of the 10). b) Additional shelter upgrades in Station Square and along Danstead Way to complement station improvement works and specific corridor scheme improvements, both funded from the Tariff programme, to be delivered in Q4 2024/25 rolling into Q1 2025/26. 	An improvement programme of ten sites now confirmed. Delivery has been paused to allow for a new dynamic purchasing system to be set up, simplifying shelter procurements going forward and reducing the cost for the base level shelters we wish to install. The upgrade programme will restart in April 2025.
109	Develop a business case to create a green public transport link along Midsummer Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will produce a business case which will need to include consideration of how it aligns with emerging proposals for Mass Rapid Transit routes within CMK and how it relates to the other interventions proposed in CMK, by March 2025. b) If supported, we will determine phasing and indicative costs for how the Greenway could be delivered as part of the wider CMK investment and improvement plan by December 2025. c) Following that, if required we will aim to take a decision in February 2026 to agree a delivery schedule, including what early, low-cost interventions could be made from 2026 and what other highways permissions could be required to enable delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Workshop held with colleagues and relevant consultants engaged on related projects (Mass Rapid Transit and CMK Growth Opportunity Study) to develop options for the Greenway. This feedback is being used to develop a draft Strategic Outline Business Case for review April 2025. b) No update at this time. c) No update at this time.
110	Investigate how a bus franchising system could operate within	We will wait to understand the position of the future governments policy until we do any detailed work. We expect to be able to scope out actions to be agreed between January to March 2025, with this becoming a live workstream in the 2025/26 financial year.	Specialist consultants were appointed to undertake a detailed study on bus franchising. This included what the cost, risk and resource implications might be. The completed 'Franchising Study' sets out the pros and cons of adopting a public transport franchising role in the future and what level of resource and expertise would be required. The Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) work within the Council Plan has also suggested that a franchise

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	Milton Keynes and our region		model may be the best management case for a new public transport model for the future. The level of government support for authorities to take up franchising is not yet clear, so there is a 'wait and see' approach at present – this also links to the current devolution plans of the Government.
111	Work to ensure MK Connect supports an integrated public transport system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will undertake analysis of the ongoing 'zonal approach' to be undertaken in Q3 2024/25 to determine the best operating model for any future DRT service, feeding the recommendations into a decision to commence re-procurement (or not). b) If the budget position allows, we will re-procure a new demand responsive service (MK Connect) for the end of the existing service, April 2025. As part of this we may need to pause and consider new policies the new government plans to introduce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The zonal trial started in July and completed in November 2024. The outcomes largely supported the original modelling outputs, however further zonal operations will only be taken forward if the preferred bidder of the new MK Connect contract has proposed it as part of their accepted solution. b) A Delegated Decision to re-procure the MK Connect service for two more years, with an option for a one year extension was taken in December 2024. Bid submissions were received in January for evaluation and moderation. Subject to the bids and new service criteria being acceptable and within budget, the preferred provider will be appointed in February, with an April go-live date.
112	Work with schools and local communities to introduce School Street schemes to increase road safety, improve air quality and reduce traffic around schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will confirm that Loughton School and Chestnuts Primary School, who both participated in the 2023 pilot scheme are supportive of a permanent School Streets solution (by September 2024). b) We will then take a Delegated Decision in September 2024 to approve an application to the Department for Transport (DfT) for camera enforcement powers for 'moving traffic offences' that will allow the safe reintroduction of School Streets for these two schools. c) We will aim to submit the application to DfT by December 2024. Applications for such powers are currently considered in batches several times a year, which means that confirmation of powers is likely to be in early 2025. d) During the application process 'window' we will work with Loughton and Chestnut schools to ensure that they have considered all of the complimentary measures that can sit alongside the School Street, to aid improved air quality and to further reduce traffic around those schools. This can include a review of the school travel plans (how staff and students get to school); and cycle training. e) We will aim to implement School Streets for these two schools by June 2025 (subject to granting of powers by DfT) and a further two schools by March 2026. 	<p>The selected schools for permanent school street solutions have been confirmed. A Delegated Decision was taken on 27 August 2024 and formal submission was made to DfT. We have been informed that we will be considered in July 2025, with a likely decision by November 2025. It is hoped that the schemes can be introduced in early 2026, subject to a positive decision from DfT in November 2025.</p> <p>Our work with safety schools more generally is ongoing, although a recent death in service has caused a current pause in engagement with the schools.</p>
113	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>We are currently delivering the actions that were identified in our last Active Travel Assessment (submitted in December 2023). This will include more infrastructure where cyclists have greater priority - such as development of a fully compliant scheme at a crossing point on Buckingham Road Bletchley (starting in September 2024).</p> <p>A number of the projects and initiatives identified in the LCWIP or CMK growth study are being planned, or are underway, including a dedicated Cycle route along the Midsummer Green Transport link (as detailed in item 109) in 2026 and the development of complimentary routes along Silbury and Avebury, with preliminary design and consultation planned in 2025/6.</p> <p>We will submit our application for Active Travel Status in December 2024 and will be clear, in our assessment, regarding our increased capability and improved team skills and resource levels. We should receive the outcome by March 2025.</p>	<p>Our consultants have now completed a design guide into cycle priority at various types of crossing points, which will form the basis for a programme of changes to cycle priority to support active travel. This guide will be incorporated into the Redway Design Manual so that this document can be finalised and adopted as council policy.</p> <p>We have commissioned a specialist consultancy to develop a priority list of projects from the LCWIP for delivery, and to develop one of these schemes to detailed design and consultation, in readiness for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>DfT Capability Funding is being used for local cycling activation support (provided through the MK Christian Foundation) and for a British Cycling Community Coach resource to work with schools and organisations to develop their cycling culture.</p>
114	Refresh the Sustainability Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Between July and August 2024 we will work with cabinet member to agree brief and scope of the refreshed city sustainability strategy, identify key city-wide partners who will be able to play a significant role in shaping and delivering the strategy and identify and action any necessary procurement route for external expertise. b) In September 2024 we aim to appoint consultant support. c) Between September 2024 and March 2025 we will draft the strategy. d) In January 2025 we will hold a city sustainability conference to secure support for, and input into, the new strategy. e) Between April and June 2025 we will consult on the strategy. f) In September 2025 we aim to secure approval of the City Sustainability Strategy and hold a launch event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scope of refreshed strategy agreed, both the new strategy and the new action plan and links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. b) Support has been provided by Local Partnerships to support the review of the strategy and the action plan. c) Detailed reviews are taking place of the sustainability action plan with colleagues across the council who are responsible for the actions. These are being updated, revised or closed as appropriate. d) The deadlines for preparation of the new strategy and action plan have been revised. The scheduling of the sustainability conference will be revisited later in 2025. e) We are now aiming to consult on the new draft strategy between May and August 2025. f) The target date for approval of the new Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan is now the end of December 2025, with a launch event to be planned in January 2026.

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Planned management actions: October 2024 – February 2025 Update

115	Continue to encourage as many organisations as possible in MK to become carbon neutral by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will complete a targeted review of the Council’s Target Zero programme by August 2024 alongside scope for City Sustainability Strategy to determine next steps to encourage as many organisations as possible to be carbon neutral. b) Use consultancy support from the Sustainability Strategy to advise Invest MK team on best scheme and promotion of business schemes on carbon neutrality, with scheme to be heavily promoted at City Sustainability Conference in January 2025 (see 114). 	<p>A review of the Target Zero programme was completed in October 2024, and a revised set of recommendations produced, aimed at increasing business take-up.</p> <p>The council is hosting a session with the MK Green Business Network in February to ensure that the Target Zero initiative continues to provide relevant advice for Milton Keynes businesses. Following feedback from the business community we will relaunch the scheme in May 2025.</p>
116	Implement investment into more flood prevention schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We will prepare two Outline Business Cases for central Government/Environment Agency for Woughton and Newport Pagnell, as well as several rural locations at a cost of £1M from secured Government Funding to enable investment into Milton Keynes for major infrastructure improvements. The estimated future funding ask is estimated to be around £20M+ to secure and enable flood prevention for both river and surface water. b) We will work with three local flood/community groups, for example in Woughton, Newport Pagnell to reduce immediate flood risk by improving flooding preparedness, early warning and local knowledge and integrating them into our own flood response processes to strengthen our collective responses to flooding. c) We will start the commence the Lake Capacity Study which will outline the potential need or requirement for a new Balancing Lake for the city. It is a jointly paid project by Environment Agency, Anglian Water and MKCC due to complete by January 2026. It will also support the new Local Plan. d) We will also prepare to potentially manage and adopt SUDs under future legislation to becomes a SUDS Adoption Body (SABs) by recruiting hydraulic engineering to begin preparing adoptions standards documentation for developers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lavendon Feasibility study complete. Currently working with the Environment Agency (EA) on the outline business case (OBC) to deliver flood alleviation scheme, as well as rural areas. Woughton feasibility studies under way (this is needed to move to OBC and subject to OBC outcomes-delivery of flood alleviation schemes). The process is needed to follow EA funding requirements – we have no money for the schemes otherwise. Awaiting data from EA and funding allocation updated regarding surface water in Newport Pagnell feasibility study. A Flood and Water Management update, including Lavendon will be supplied to the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee on 27 March. The FWMT are also working with Lavendon to develop a Local Flood Group. b) The Flood and Water Management Team (FWMT) are currently working with the following flood groups: Stony Stratford FLAG, Stony Stratford Resilience Group, Newport Pagnell Flood Group, Woughton Community Flood Group and working on Ravenstone Flood Plan. We have attended two Parish Forum events updating on the FWMTs role and responsibilities (June 2024) and Community Resilience and Flood Plans (September 2024). The team continues to produce quarterly update to Parishes through Councillor News. These groups worked very well in the late September flooding. We have also had some interests in forming flood groups which the FWMT will provide support for. c) The first draft collaboration agreement has been reviewed by our legal team. We meet regularly with the Environment Agency (EA) to progress this, and other matters listed here. Anglian Water are reviewing the Collaboration Agreement. Anglian Water will likely confirm their position and any available funding to support this project in February 2025. d) Work underway to review potential resource and technical skills that will be required in MKCC to undertake Sustainable Drainage Approval Body function as described in the Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, with a view to commencing recruitment of first member of a new SABs (SuDs Approval Body) team in Summer 2025.
117	Improve highways water management systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) From September 2024 we will introduce a new way of identifying and targeting ‘hot spots’ for gully and drainage maintenance, utilising historic asset data, records, and live data. The new ‘Kaarbontech’ system to develop intelligence led drainage cleaning programmes to help protect against incidents of flooding and to identify longer term targeted interventions. b) We will carry out ongoing monitoring and working colleagues in the flood team (Lead Local Flood Authority) to identify trends through 2024/25 and 2025/26 to adjust and focus our approach as necessary. c) We will also implement and monitor operational service KPI’s as part of the new contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Our new Highways Contract commenced on the 1 September 2024 as planned. This includes the new approach to gully cleansing, with a targeted gully cleansing programme, informed by historic data. This will commence for 2025/26. b) Closer working with the Lead Local Flood Authority flood team to identify high risk areas or third party required actions is feeding into point A above to increase data sets for targeted actions. Close working proved critical in the recent flooding incidents (end of September 2024) and is evidence this worked well. c) New service performance measures will be implemented as part of the new contract, ensuring that resources, performance, and quantity of drainage actions are being carried out and reported monthly, with reduction in payment incentives dependant on longer term performance. In line with the contract timeframes, the contractor is working up their programme for agreement and implementation from April 2025 – once agreed the programmes and measures will be communicated.