

Milton Keynes

From the UK's most
successful New Town
to leading UK city



**Milton
Keynes.**
Better by design

Milton Keynes. Better by design

*This is the city of **Milton Keynes**. A place unlike anywhere else on earth. A place that others look to for inspiration. A testbed for new ideas and a UK leader in technology and innovation. Our city was designed to provide an ideal way to work and live, in a city that's wide open and spacious, giving business the room it needs to grow. Today, the world's largest fleet of autonomous robots deliver our residents' shopping, we are leading the way on driverless transport technologies, and we are running urban drone trials. We're the city businesses and innovators come to when they want to turn ideas into reality.*



Milton Keynes

Built for Growth

From its designation as a New Town in 1967, Milton Keynes is a true British success story.

This is a city that is unashamedly pro-growth and uniquely placed to deliver on the Government's #1 mission of national economic growth.

Located at the geographical centre of the Oxford-Cambridge corridor, we are the only UK city purposely designed with business growth in mind.

Our city is frequently recognised as one of the best places to live and work in the UK, boasting a high quality of life alongside an entrepreneurial, thriving economy.

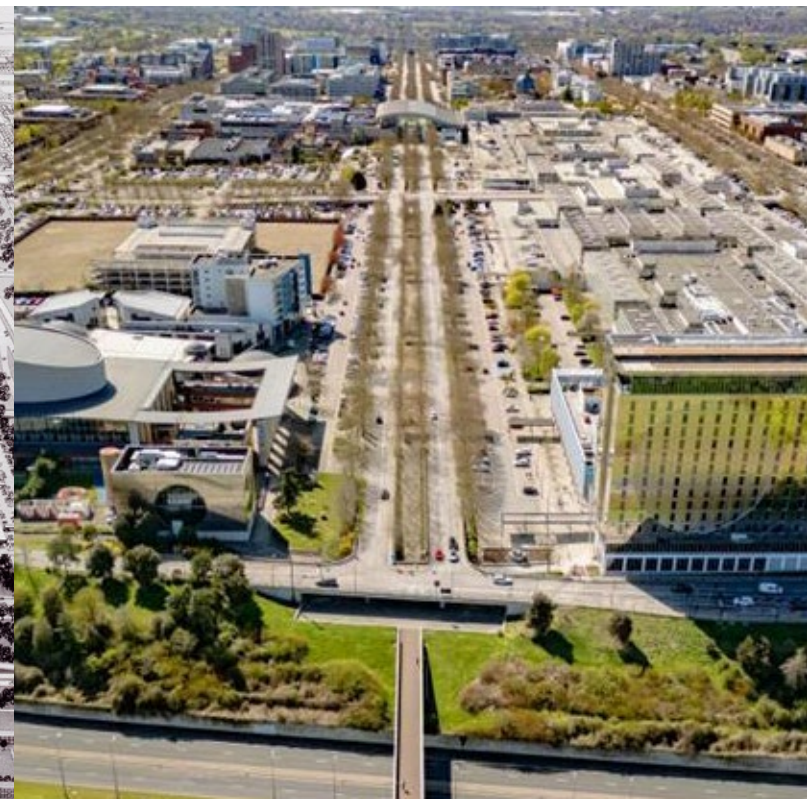
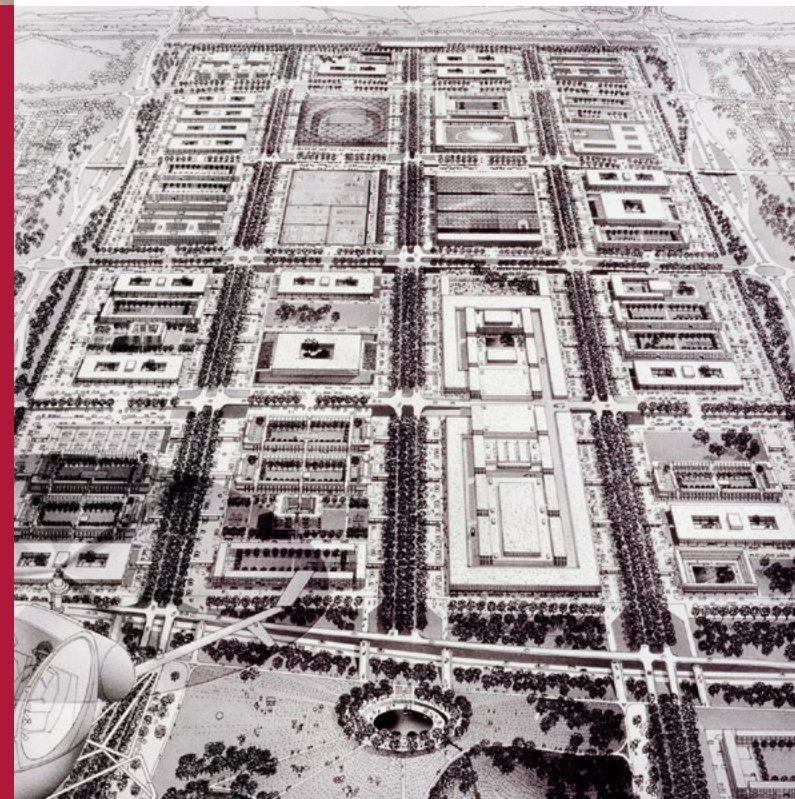
Milton Keynes is internationally recognised as a Smart City, trialling the latest innovations, including autonomous vehicles and drones in a real-world testbed. We are the city where ideas become reality.



We are the only UK city designed from its very inception with business growth in mind, and are already home to global brands and future innovators. We are the UK's fastest growing city, with unashamedly ambitious plans for our future growth.

*But **Milton Keynes** was also made to look forward. Our people and businesses are pioneers, with an ethos of continually adapting, improving, and looking to the future. Bletchley Park, the birthplace of modern computing, has already led one technological revolution and **Milton Keynes** is uniquely placed to deliver on the next.*

This is Milton Keynes. Better by Design.

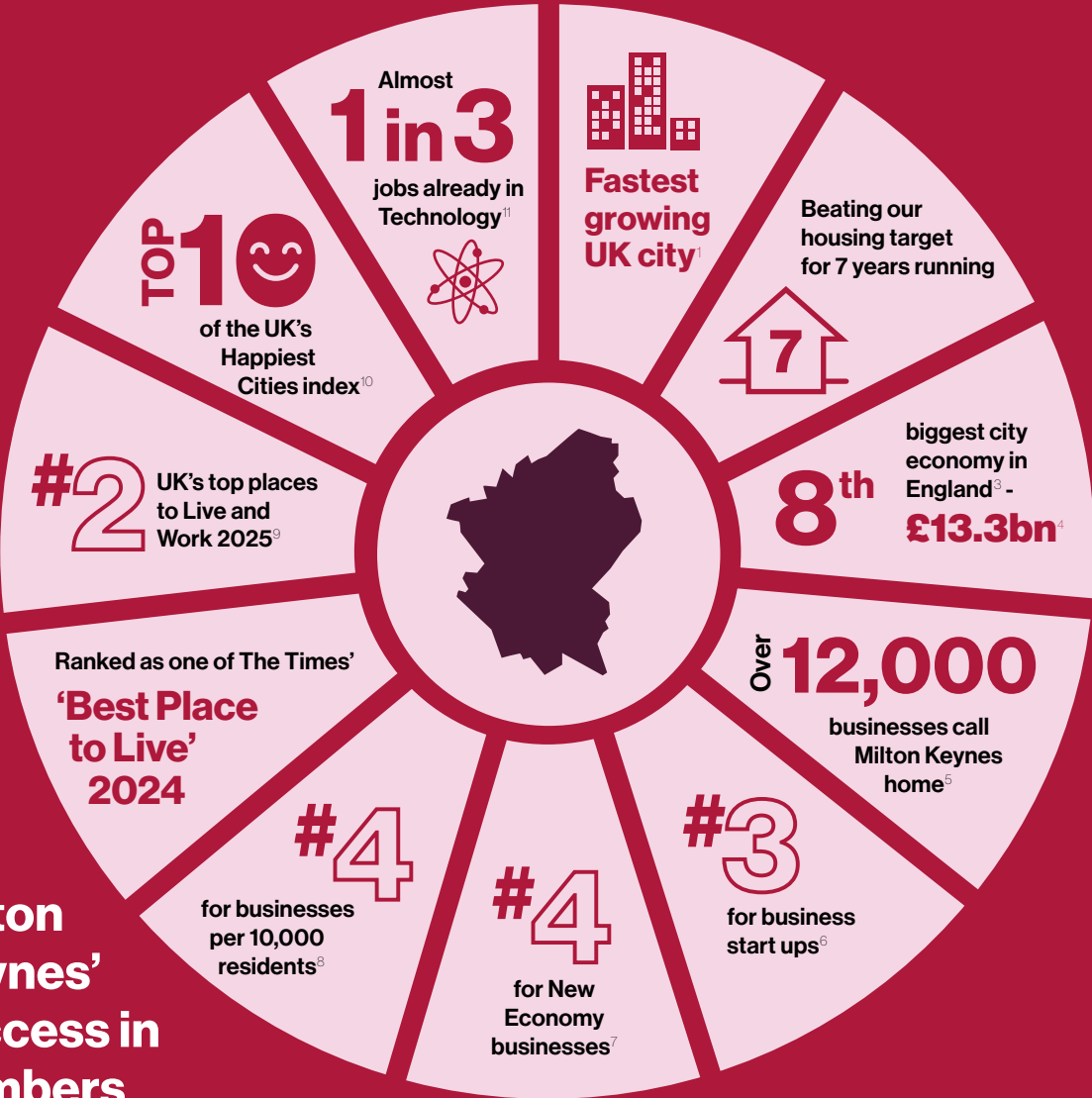


Milton Keynes in context

The city occupies a strategic location, within easy reach of London and Birmingham as well as Oxford, Cambridge and local partners in Bedford, Luton and Northampton.



Milton Keynes' success in numbers



¹ Housing Stock Change, Centre for Cities, **Milton Keynes** City Profile

² **Milton Keynes** City Council, Housing and Development monitoring data <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/housing-development-monitoring>

³ ONS GVA and productivity estimates for other geographies, Towns and Cities, gross value added, pounds million.

⁴ Centre for Cities, **Milton Keynes** City Profile, 2025

⁵ NOMIS, Local Authority Profile, 2025

⁶ Centre for Cities, **Milton Keynes** City Profile, 2025

⁷ Centre for Cities, **Milton Keynes** City Profile, 2025

⁸ Centre for Cities, **Milton Keynes** City Profile, 2025

⁹ LSH Vitality index, 2025

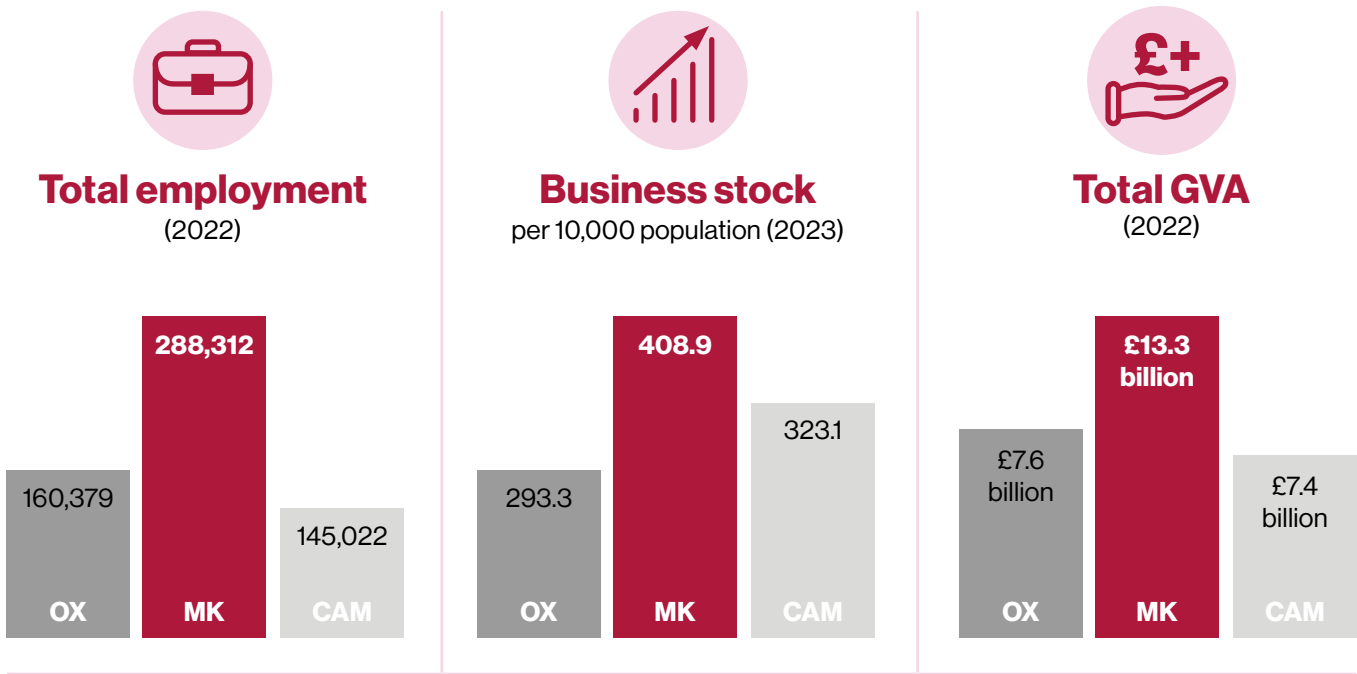
¹⁰ #8, Happy City Index, 2024

¹¹ Whitecap Consulting, **Milton Keynes** Tech Ecosystem, 2022

Milton Keynes' role in the Oxford – Cambridge Growth Corridor

Milton Keynes is the largest city within, and the jobs powerhouse of, the strategic 66-mile economic growth corridor from Oxford to Cambridge.

Not only does Milton Keynes provide key specialisms in digital technology, AI and national security engineering, it has the land and spatial capacity to accommodate substantial business growth and scale-ups, with more affordable land values than many parts of the South-East.



Who is already here?



Milton Keynes future vision

Milton Keynes is a city that understands the importance of having a clear vision for its future.

Our Strategy for 2050 outlines our plans to grow to a city with a population of 410k by 2050, additional 50,000 to 90,000 new jobs.

We believe that under the right conditions, the city can achieve even more, even faster. Our city's growth plans provide confidence to investors and set out the ambition for our growth to meet the needs of our existing residents and businesses.



Join us on the journey to become a city of

half a million people.



What do we need now?

The journey to our stronger future starts with these first three steps:

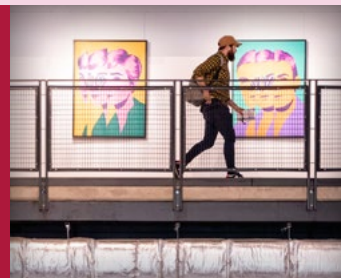
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Designation as a New Town



2

**A University and Innovation
Quarter for Milton Keynes**



3

**Devolution for Milton Keynes and
its sub-region - a Mayor for BLMK**



Designation as a New Town

Milton Keynes' success is firmly built on its New Town roots and the opportunities that created for the city and the residents and businesses that were created or moved here.

To maximise the opportunities for the city and to help meet the Government's missions, we strongly believe that **Milton Keynes** should be once again at the forefront of the Government's new wave of New Towns.

We know from experience that major growth requires significant focus and support to ensure it provides the benefits of growth for both existing and future residents.

Within our city centre and through further extension of the city east of the M1 motorway, and with the right powers, funding regimes and delivery arrangements through the New Town programme, we believe our housing targets could be delivered faster.

These strategic development sites are ready to go now and identified in our emerging MK City Plan 2050. In the longer term, developers in other parts of the city are gearing up for even more growth beyond this.

Our aim is for Milton Keynes to be identified as a priority focus in the New Towns Taskforce report later in 2025, and for MHCLG to take forward their recommendation



MK TODAY

300,000 people
187,000 jobs

The Future of MK

500,000 people
300,000 jobs

A University and Innovation Quarter for Milton Keynes

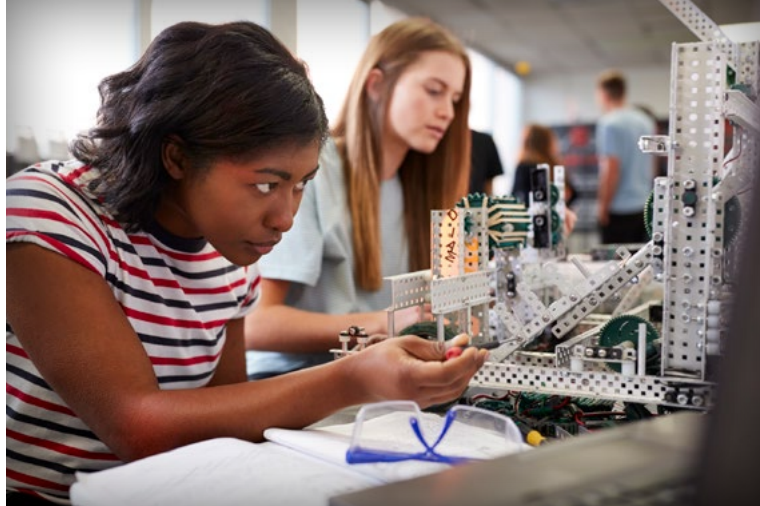
Milton Keynes has a dynamic, innovation-led economy and is at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

We are working with key partners including His Majesty's Government Communications Centre (HMGCC) to develop an Innovation Quarter, with a focus on technology and national security. The Innovation Quarter will be the flagship for tech and innovation in our city.

We also intend to strengthen the Higher Education presence in CMK, to further accelerate innovation.

Milton Keynes is already home to the Open University, once of Europe's largest universities, with **200,000** students and a leading innovator in digital learning. Cranfield University is also based just outside the city, offering world-class R&D in science, technology, engineering and management.

We believe the time is now right to establish a new city-centre undergraduate university in **Milton Keynes**. As the city continues to grow this is essential to strengthen the supply of highly skilled graduates for local employers.



Milton Keynes is the largest town or city in the UK without an undergraduate residential university. We firmly believe that the benefits to our city of undergraduate education presence will be transformational.

These include attracting new and supporting existing businesses, improving our skills base and providing new education options locally, bringing new activity and vitality to the city centre, and expanding our cultural offer.

We continue to work with the Open University and other potential partners about a city centre Higher Education presence.

We are interested to explore the potential for a multi-university model and would be keen to talk to other institutions about the opportunities for shared facilities and providing a diversity of offer for students.



We have the space and ambition to make a Higher Education-led Innovation Quarter a reality.

The next step is to secure the investment needed to drive the project forward.

Devolution for Milton Keynes and its region -

A Mayor for BLMK (Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes)

Devolution has a critical role to play in unlocking growth. By focussing on economic development, housing, planning, transport, infrastructure and future delivery of public services at a regional level, there is a clear opportunity to tackle barriers to growth and improve delivery for local people.

It is vitally important that Devolution is on a footprint that make sense to local people and businesses. For **Milton Keynes**, this footprint covers the four local authorities within Bedfordshire, Luton and **Milton Keynes**¹² – or BLMK.

The BLMK economy already contributes **£32.9bn** to the national economy. The area is home to over 1 million people and is one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

¹² Covers the Local Authority areas of Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council and Milton Keynes City Council.



Inward Investment decisions in this area in 2025 include Universal's **£50bn** investment in Bedford, and London Luton Airport expansion approval - an investment of around **£1.5bn**. Significant public sector investment is also being made in the delivery of East West Rail in the BLMK region, connecting our city and towns directly to Oxford (from 2025) and Cambridge (2030 onwards).

In the context of a game changing level of investment in this area of the country, the area needs the right institutions in place – a new Mayoral Strategic Authority - to maximise the benefit for local people and businesses, and for the UK.

A Devolution deal for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes should be progressed by central government at the earliest possible opportunity.





Keen to support our vision?

Scan the QR code and follow the steps on the sign up page.



Photo credits:
Chris Henley, John Cooper and Corstorphine and Wright

Help to support Milton Keynes' ambitions

We need your support for these ambitions to become a reality. We want to show to Government the depth of commitment from private and public sector partners across **Milton Keynes** and the region for the vision outlined in this document.

To learn more about "why Milton Keynes?" visit us at **www.investmiltonkeynes.com** and learn why we are a leading UK business city.

MK **Milton Keynes**
City Council

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Invest
**Milton
Keynes.**