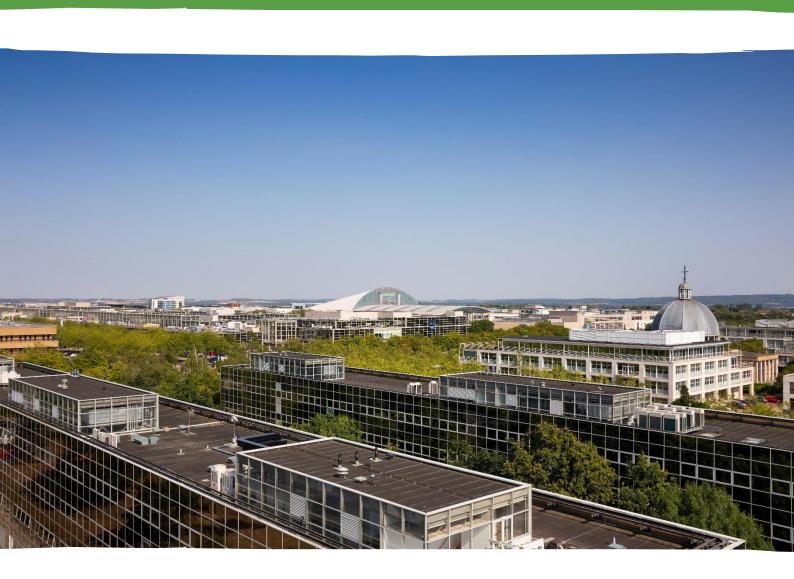
POTEnT Project





Milton Keynes Regional Action Plan Final March 2022









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Action Plan for the Milton Keynes region

Part I General information

Project: POTEnT (Public Organisations Transform

Energy Transition)

Partner: PP4 Milton Keynes Council

Country: United Kingdom

NUTS2 region: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

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Part II Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:		Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
С		European Territorial Cooperation programme
	\boxtimes	Other regional development policy instrument
Name of the policy instrument addresse	ed:	Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2021

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments.

Milton Keynes Policy instrument

This POTEnT Regional Action Plan (RAP) will assist delivery of the Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy Action Plan (MK SSAP). The MK SSAP has replaced the Energy, Water and Carbon Strategy following citizen consultation and declaration of climate emergency. The POTEnT RAP will deliver carbon emission reductions with the co-operation of local stakeholders faster than the delivery of the SSAP alone. The SSAP draft was approved by the Milton Keynes Cabinet in March 2020 and the final version went to cabinet in December 2021. The MK SSAP is the updated policy document that supersedes the 2012 Low Carbon Action Plan and the 2018 Energy, Water and Carbon Strategy. The MK SSAP aspires to more ambitious carbon reduction targets than the Low Carbon Action Plan and is the result of lengthy consultation with local citizens and organisations.

Milton Keynes Policy Context

Milton Keynes strives to be carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon negative by 2050. CO2 emissions from the Borough have reduced by 44% since 2005. It is estimated that Milton Keynes Council produce around 2% of the emissions. Milton Keynes Council will continue to reduce carbon emissions from their buildings but cannot reduce all CO2 emissions alone. Partners are needed to help address the remaining 98% of city-wide emissions.

Improvement of Milton Keynes Policy Instrument

The POTEnT Regional Action Plan (RAP) will address the MK SSAP targets listed in Table 1. These actions are planned for medium to long term in the SSAP. Through partnerships and funding applications brought about by the POTEnT project, these actions can be brought forward to earlier dates and on larger scales. Greater carbon savings will be made sooner because of the POTEnT project.





Part III Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1:

Name of the action: Facilitate Renewable Energy, Low Carbon Projects and Green Roofs

1. Relevance to the project

The Public Organisations Transform Energy Transitions (POTEnT) Project

The POTEnT project is consortium of 8 partners who will improve regional low caron policies. POTEnT addresses a key challenge for European cities and regions: how to achieve more carbon reduction by harnessing the potential of direct and local action by citizens and communities. The project is funded by the Interreg Europe programmes. POTEnT started in August 2019 and will run for 48 months.

Learning shared between partners on good practice provides foundations for each partner to reduce carbon emissions faster than business as usual. Collaborative working with citizens will increase the effectiveness of carbon reduction initiatives created by project partners.

Knowledge from POTEnT Thematic Events

The Milton Keynes partners are inspired by POTEnT partners to facilitate and deliver energy saving projects through working together with citizens and organisations to reduce carbon emissions. We have learnt from partners how to overcome barriers through the thematic events and how to engage partners in appropriate roles to deliver projects within budget and on time. We have learnt that projects that bring together technical expertise, academic knowledge, funding streams and willing citizens can bring ambitious projects to fruition.

We do need ambitious projects to meet the challenging targets of carbon neutrality by 2030 and be carbon negative by 2050. This RAP aims high by bringing partners and funders together to make the significant savings required.

Political Will and Commitment to the Environment

In recent months there has been an increased urgency for scaling up the size of the projects and the speeding up the carbon emission savings. The COP26 talks have brought a focus on the importance of reducing carbon and committing to conserving the environment for future generations. These calls for action have raised awareness and placed the MK POTEnT Partners in a good position to engage businesses, academia and citizens to facilitate low carbon projects.





Learning from Interregional Exchange of Experience

The Milton Keynes partners have learnt from the Lorient partners how the Taranis Network enables the creation and development of renewable energy projects that are carried out by citizens. Taranis network provides training for the skills required to deliver renewable energy projects. Milton Keynes will translate this idea and provide experienced project managers to oversee skills training on the project and from local academic institutions. By bringing project partners together, local communities can create their own low carbon projects.

Milton Keynes will be bringing together a network of organisations to build partnership projects as in Lorient's BIEN LA Innovative local energy loop. This will take the form of a Green Business Network of organisations and commercial traders where knowledge of energy saving projects and measures can be shared. Lorient's SIPEnR (development of renewable energy with public and private investment) support tool will be utilised and adapted for developing low carbon projects with partners. Milton Keynes will be encouraging businesses to assess their buildings to identify energy efficient improvements as in Lorient's Energy performance of Businesses and Commerce (PEEC). Milton Keynes POTEnT team will also ask businesses to assess the potential for a Green Roof on their buildings. Green Roofs is a Milton Keynes good practice. A green roof will save energy by effectively shielding the building from overheating in summer while also providing a layer of insulation in cooler months. A green roof will provide valuable ecosystems with areas of green habitat for insects and bugs and can provide further microclimates by the addition of old wooden branches. The green roof on an MKC (Milton Keynes Council) office has trays of salad growing, over one hundred pumpkins, 300,000 bees, trees planted in part of a Renault 2CV and an old railway carriage with straw bales utilised as a meeting space.

Funding these low carbon projects in Milton Keynes will be by using funding streams available to local authorities in the South East Region and initiatives from Lorient such as selling shares as in the OnCIMè project where citizens own the company and invest in renewable energy projects. We have learnt how to value and sell shares and this knowledge will be shared with Wolverton Community Energy (WCE) organisation in Milton Keynes. WCE have been successfully delivering insulation schemes and renewable energy installations for 15 years and are keen to work together with the MK POTEnT project partners to raise funds to enable the creation of further carbon saving projects.

Skills training opportunities

There have been peer reviewed reports published during the last 18 months of COVID lock downs, citing the shortage of skills for all the 'build back better' technologies from insulating homes, managing building management systems, installing Photovoltaic panels and heat pumps. Apprenticeships and skills training will be incorporated into the projects either through stakeholder organisations or through local educational establishments. Skills shortages identified in research will be addressed by taught courses at Milton Keynes College and a new Mk University due to open in 2022. The MK University are committed to skills training and are working with Cranfield University on course content. Their opening having been delayed by COVID lock downs.





2. Nature of the action

Action Activities

Milton Keynes POTEnT team have chosen to focus on one action but it has many aspects all contributing to carbon savings initiated by the project partner inspired by ideas from the POTEnT lead partner Lorient. The action is to deliver low carbon projects through partnerships with stakeholders.

Actions for carbon reduction in the Milton Keynes POTEnT RAP are summarised in Table 1. The text following the table explains details of how we plan to deliver the actions. Actions and stakeholders are in green text.

Reference	Project description
1	Building Insulation
2	Renewable Energy installations
3a	Green Business Network -establishment
3b	Green Business Network- low carbon installations
3c	Green Business Network- Funding
4	Green Roofs
5	Skills training, apprenticeships

Table 1. Milton Keynes Regional Action Plan Actions

The POTEnT team will bring partners together to deliver carbon saving projects as in the Lorient good practices of PEEC, providing access to funding sources through regional local government agencies SEMLEP and South East Energy Hub.

The POTEnT team in Milton Keynes have identified a range of partners who can help deliver low carbon projects using funding from sources outside the Council. Carbon Saving projects will include household insulation and renewable energy installations with Wolverton Community Energy and Western Power Distribution. Money to pay for these projects will be sourced from local government agencies, businesses and could also come from the Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund if sufficient tonnes of carbon savings can be made.

The domestic insulation project will be replicating a previous project support by the Carbon Offset Fund where whole streets of the same age were of only three designs. Money was saved on surveying as the same materials were used throughout so had the same U Values. A similar project will be starting in January 2022 and end 31 March. This will be a pilot project funded by Western Power Distribution and working in conjunction with Wolverton Community Energy and if results are good, a larger project will follow later in 2022.





There are over 2000 commercial organisations in Milton Keynes, some of the larger businesses are listed on page 11. These will be invited to join a Green Business Network with a grant incentive for development of low carbon travel plans. The Network would establish a sharing of best practice, encouraged to install a green roof, a ground source heat pump or invest in creation of a renewable energy project or green roof on another building such as a school or community centre. This would provide learning potential and maybe apprenticeship opportunities in conjunction with local educational establishments such as Milton Keynes University, Milton Keynes College, Cranfield University and the Open University.

The actions in the Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy Action Plan and the relevance to the Milton Keynes POTEnT RAP are summarised in Table 2.

Ref	MK SSAP	POTEnT RAP	Exchange of Experience learning from POTEnT partners
2.2	Identify sites and develop solar farms	Partnership with Wolverton Community Energy and Western Power Distribution	Taranis Network (Training and skills development) from Lorient
5.1	Green job creation and skills training, engaging with partners in the business and education community	Business and education partnerships to provide skills training and apprenticeship opportunities.	PEEC (Energy audit to identify potential sites) from Lorient
6.2	Retrofit housing to improve energy efficiency	Partnership with Wolverton Community Energy	OnCIMè (Financial model) from Lorient SIPEnR (project support)
7.1	Mobilise and deliver a biodiversity and natural environment action plan	Green roofs	BIEN LA from Lorient (network of local actors to form the Green Business Network)
9.3	Implement policies and schemes that encourage ride sharing reducing single occupancy car use	Grants for business transport plans	PEEC from Lorient SIPEnR from Lorient BIEN LA from Lorient

Table 2. MK Action Plan policy relevance to the MK POTEnT RAP

The reference numbers in Table 2 are taken from the approved Milton Keynes Sustainability Strategy Action Plan. Extensive consultation has taken place before the draft and since approval. The final draft of the MKSSAP went to MKC Cabinet for approval in December 2021.

The MK POTEnT Team will monitor the impacts of the actions and with consultation of partners good practices and RAP stakeholders and will refine support where actions can be approved.





Table 3 below provides an overview of the POTEnT RAP with details of how we plan to deliver, funding and learning opportunities.

Ref	Activity	Delivery Method	Training/learning	Funding	Planning	Delivery
				(Amounts given if known)	Stage	Start Date
1	Internal wall insulation for communities with similar housing stock	Each contract to be appointed by MKC procurement rules	ApprenticeshipsInstaller courses	 Grants from central/regional/local Government Green Business network members Western Power Distribution (GBP 10,000) 	Summer 2021	Early Spring 2022
2	Solar PV	Each installation to be appointed by MKC procurement rules	ApprenticeshipsInstaller courses	 Shareholder Scheme Green Business Network (3c) Western Power Distribution 	Autumn 2021	Summer 2022
3a	Green Business Network - establish	Working with the MKC Economy and Policy team	MKC POTEnT team learning from other MKC teams	MKC General Fund Gov. Business Recovery grant	Spring 2021	Summer 2021
3b	Green Business Network - installations	Building assessment and project planning via the network	ApprenticeshipsProject Reports	Green Business network members	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
3c	Green Business Network – Fund raising	GBN meetings	Not applicable	Business CSR (corporate social responsibility) and support for local carbon reductions	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
4	Green Roof installations	Bridgman and Bridgman	Apprenticeships	Grants from central/regional/local Government	January 2022	March 2022
5	Skills training and apprenticeships	Project delivery (3b and 4) MK University MK College Open University	ApprenticeshipsInstaller courses	Grants from central/regional/local Government	Spring 2022	Autumn 2022

Table 3. Planned Activities Summary





3. Stakeholders involved

Our main stakeholders are the citizens of Milton Keynes. The POTEnT RAP will help citizens to reduce their carbon emissions and lower their fuel bills by domestic insulation and renewable energy projects. We will improve the health of citizens by insulating homes. Making these ambitions into realities requires business partners and support networks. We plan to work with colleagues within the Council along with old and new business contacts to build a green business network that can help citizens reduce their emissions by working together.

Green roofs are a low carbon initiative that helps regulate the roof temperature and improves biodiversity. Green roofs can also be combined with Solar PV Panels on the same roof, the shade provided by the panels create micro-climates in the living roofs. Bridgman and Bridgman are installing green roofs on MK bus shelters and an office building currently in the Milton Keynes Council portfolio but will be transferred to a redevelopment company in early 2022. The bus stops create habitats and play a role in awareness raising. The organisation has identified many potential sites that could easily be transformed into a green roof. POTEnT partners will work with Bridgman and Bridgman to bring more green roofs to Milton Keynes. More information can be found in the Milton Keynes Green Roofs Good Practice submitted to the POTEnT website in February 2022.

Local Partnerships are under contract to provide services to Milton Keynes Council properties including identifying sites, assess suitability for low carbon improvements and identify and apply for funding to improve MK building stock. Local Partnerships presented their forthcoming role in the POTEnT Sustainability Conference in March 2020 ahead of the first national Covid lock down.

Milton Keynes Council has three funding sources for improving building stock, the regeneration fund, the general fund and the Carbon Offset Fund.

Regeneration Fund: If the insulation projects are within the seven housing estates in the MK Regeneration districts, there could be funding for building fabric improvements.

General Fund: Finance allocated to the delivery of the Council Plan including public health, housing, regeneration and Covid-19 funding.

Carbon Offset Fund: Local tax collected from developers for projected carbon emissions from their new buildings. Funds raised are used for local projects and grants for citizens to reduce their carbon emissions through energy efficiency projects. The Carbon Offset Fund uses existing legal powers associated with national planning legislation used in a novel way. The Fund encourages developers to build to specifications higher than the national Building Regulations. The sliding scale of operation means net zero emissions have zero tax. This has operated successfully for around 12 years.





The South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) has the role of helping economic growth to thrive across the Region. SEMLEP is steered by a business-led Board that tackles barriers to sustainable growth and supports job creation for future prosperity of communities in the region. SEMLEP services helps the local economy to thrive by working with partners to boost innovation and enterprise, connecting businesses to specialist information and advice they need to set up and grow. Tailored support is provided to help businesses succeed. SEMPLEP works with businesses, young people, schools and colleges to build a talent pipeline that meets the workforce needs of current and future employers and attracts and manages funding for projects that build a resilient, inclusive and sustainable economy.

The Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is a ministerial department supported by 42 agencies and public bodies. Their remit is to build a stronger, greener future by tackling climate change, supporting innovation and fighting coronavirus. As well as business and industrial strategy, their responsibilities include climate change, energy, clean growth, science, research and innovation. Amongst their priorities is the tackling of climate change by reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Greater South East Energy Hub works with public sector organisations and their stakeholders to support the development and financing of local energy projects. The POTEnT project team at Milton Keynes already has good relationships with the local representatives and have worked on research projects recently. The Hub's aim is to increase the number, scale and quality of local energy projects and is perfectly placed as an intermediate stage of accessing Government funding from BEIS.

IKEA are an exemplary business that, similar to Milton Keynes, have sustainability at their 60 year old roots. Their focus is on healthy and sustainable living, being climate positive using regenerative resources and fairness and equality in their positive social impacts. They aim to be 100% powered by renewable energy across their supply and retail chains. Bridgman and Bridgman installed a green roof on IKEA in Greenwich, London in 2019 at a cost of over 580 thousand Euros. The Milton Keynes IKEA has Solar PV on the roof. In 2020 they launched a free in store festival on how to live a more sustainable life. In 2021 they started to offer spare parts for their furniture to make their products more sustainable. They have a dedicated Sustainability Officer at the Milton Keynes store and the MK POTEnT team are having regular conversations about ways to work together.

The Open University was established by Royal Charter in 1969 and has always been based in Milton Keynes. The campus covers 111 acres and includes a late 17th century manor house. The OU is one of the largest universities in Europe with 205,420 students. The campus contains many different buildings some of which already are energy efficient but many could be covered with green roofs and solar panels.





Western Power Distribution is the local District Network Operator. The MK POTEnT project partners attended an online meeting on their plan to establish a team of their engineers to:

- provide advice and guidance
- help mobilise new schemes, particularly PV on schools
- update community energy guides
- develop innovation proposals
- provide relevant training

Western Power Distribution is keen to work with Milton Keynes Council on the development of this new initiative and POTEnT is an ideal project to mobilise action. Their planned action will deliver an annual £1 million Community Matters fund with starter packs of £10k PV starter packs for schools. The MK POTEnT team successfully applied for the full amount of funding for an insulation project working with Wolverton Community Energy. The results will be reported in March 2022. It is expected this pilot project will be scaled up during the POTEnT project.





Green Business Network potential members

There are 2,393 organisations in Milton Keynes including UK headquarters of organisations who employ thousands of people and are keen to promote their green credentials and their commitment to corporate social responsibilities. Below is a list of some of the major employers who we will be approaching.

Airbus Google Sainsburys Amazon Hewlett Packard Santander

Apple Hilton Schneider Electric

Argos Jaguar Land Rover Shell
Barclays John Lewis Sky

Boeing KFC Starbucks

BP Lloyds Banking Group Tata Consultancy Services

BT (British Telecom) Marks & Spencer Tech Mahindra

Costa Mercedes-Benz Tesla

Cranfield University Microsoft The Open University

Daimler NatWest Group Unilever
DHL Network Rail UPS

EnterpriseNextVirgin MediaGlaxoSmithKlineNissanVolkswagenGoldman SachsRed BullWalmart

The Milton Keynes Economy and Policy team and the Sustainability team already have around 30 business contacts who are interested in working with Milton Keynes Council.

Local businesses in Milton Keynes often have their own networks that will extend the reach of the POTEnT project. The shopping centre has over 200 retailers and the many company headquarters based in Milton Keynes provides opportunities to reduce carbon in commercial and business sectors. The shopping centre is one of top 10 shopping destinations in the UK and attracts 24 million guest visits each year. It spans 1.3 million sq. ft and is a Grade II listed building in one of the fastest growing cities in the UK.





Table 4 below summarises the main stakeholders of the POTEnT Action Plan and their roles.

Organisation	Role	
South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Support	AdviceFunding
Department of Buildings, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Support	FeasibilityFunding
Greater South East Energy Hub	Support	 Advice and information Development of proposition Rural Community Energy Fund Local Authority Delivery funding
Local Partnerships	Organisational	Site identificationFeasibilityfunding applications
Milton Keynes Council	Funding	Regeneration fundGeneral fundCarbon Offset fund
Western Power Distribution	Support	Advice and informationDevelopment of propositionFundingTraining
Bridgman and Bridgman	Living Roof Services	AdviceInstallationApprenticeships
Wolverton Community Energy	Funding and organisational	Selling shares for RE projectsSite identificationProject managementApprenticeships
IKEA	Exemplary business plan	Advice to fellow businessesStudent placementsResearch opportunities
The Open University	Support	 Work with MKC on lowering emissions on their campus Share research Share data Educational opportunities Links with BBC
Local businesses	Green Business Network	 Peer to peer good practice sharing Centre:MK MK Chamber of Commerce global organisations promoting sustainability commitments

Table 4. Stakeholders and their roles





4. Timeframe

Work has already started in establishing contact with organisations willing to partner with the Milton Keynes POTEnT partners in establishing carbon reduction projects. Details of dates of when the Milton Keynes POTEnT partners started working with the stakeholders are shown in Table 3 on page 9 in the Nature of the Action Section.

Table 5 below is the roadmap to achieving results with key milestones.

Technology	Commence planning
Establishing connections with stakeholders	In progress
Identifying sites for low carbon improvements	In progress
Grant research and applications	December 2021
Green roofs	November 2021
Solar PV community project	December 2021
Domestic insulation projects with partners	November 2021
CO2 savings verified	Spring 2023

Table 5. Timeframe with planned commencement

Initial discussions on these projects have already been discussed with POTEnT stakeholders, the dates in Table 5 are when we plan to determine details of actions and identify sites for insulation and renewable energy installations.





5. Indicative Costs

Total cost is estimated to be £65 million. This could rise significantly as more Government grant schemes are announced.

Detailed information will be in POTEnT reports when stakeholders have agreed targets with the POTEnT Project team.

6. Indicative funding sources

Funding will be provided partly by the policy instrument described in Part II. The money will come from the three Milton Keynes funding sources: Regeneration, General and Carbon Offset Fund. Work on identifying funding sources will begin in December 2021 in collaboration with the South East Energy Hub, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and the Government department of Buildings, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Partnerships with local organisations and business networks will provide the greatest amount of funding. The first of these grant applications have already been successful with £10,000 given by Western Power Distribution for a pilot insulation project in cooperation with local community groups led by Wolverton Community Energy.

Milton Keynes Council will incentivise organisations to reduce carbon by offering grants to businesses who undertake low carbon improvements such as upgrades to heating and cooling systems and low carbon travel plans.





Signature of POTEnT Project Partner

Date: 10/04/2022

Name of the organisation:

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Signature of the relevant organisation:

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