

MK50 – Celebrating Milton Keynes’ 50th Anniversary

On 23rd January 2017, Milton Keynes will celebrate its 50th anniversary marking the date of the Designation of the New Town. This gives a fantastic opportunity to celebrate how far Milton Keynes has come as a city, to present to the world its unique story, and to look to the future vision for what Milton Keynes will become.



In order to deliver this opportunity, individuals, communities and organisations will need to collaborate in creating and delivering an inspiring programme of events in which everyone will want to participate. Milton Keynes Council is co-ordinating the MK50 programme of activity for 2017 but schools, businesses, charities, venues, individuals and organisations etc. will all have a part to play, using their expertise and specialisms to create a vibrant year of celebration. MK50 will encourage all scales of activity, ensuring that everyone can feel involved, whether at a large-scale cultural event, or a local fair or community or family picnic.

Milton Keynes Council (MKC) and its major partners believe this anniversary can also deliver a cultural step-change for the city. By creating a city-wide ‘MK50’ programme we aim to increase the cultural offer, ambition and capacity for the future citizens and show that Milton Keynes is a great place to live, work and visit. Moving beyond 2017, and in line with the aspiration to become the UK’s European Capital of Culture in 2023, this will enable Milton Keynes to achieve the cultural vitality, economic strength, cohesive identity and social well-being that characterises a successful city.

What is the aim of MK50?

The aim of MK50 is to celebrate locally, and share with the world that Milton Keynes is an amazing place to live, work and visit. MK50 will:

- Highlight the civic pride felt across the city and borough
- Bring diverse communities together in active participation, and
- Champion a distinctive cultural offer including; arts, heritage and sport

What is MK Council doing for MK50?

£100K has been identified for MK50 to develop the programme, provide community micro-grants and seed fund applications to secure public, third sector and commercial investment in the region of £500K. MK Council is drawing together a programme for the anniversary and working with partners to develop ideas and projects that celebrate this important milestone. We are developing three strands of activity: Civic, Cultural and Community.

Is there a theme for MK50?

The MK Council programme will have three themes:

- **City at Play,**
- **Green MK** and
- **New Town, Future City.**

These themes will all contain elements of Cultural, Civic and Community activity.

MK50 framework

We have created this framework for the year:

- **Valuing the Past** (23rd January – 23rd February): on 23rd January, which is the day Milton Keynes was designated as a New Town, we will be planning a formal ceremony to launch the celebratory year.
- **Celebrating the Present** (23rd June – 13th Auguts): Starting on 23rd June there will be fifty days to

celebrate the city with major events and community celebrations.

- **Looking to the Future** (23rd October – 23rd November): From 23rd October there will be time to reflect on the year and gather resources to look forwards.

Early ideas for MK 50

Some early ideas and examples of projects include:

- Walks, talks and debates,
- A Geo-Cache Trail or Digital Treasure Hunt,
- Picnics and Play in the Parks, food sharing and feasts,
- Art, dance and performance around MK,
- 50 Free Things To Do,
- Sporting City activities,
- A creative writing competition inspired by our Public Art and with the aim of creating Talking Artworks around the city.

For further information, or to share ideas, please see:

- See the website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/MK50
 - You can contact us now with your ideas on culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk
 - We will also be available to meet with you via Surgery Days (8th Dec, 12th Jan), email us to book
 - Follow us on Twitter: [@Culture MK](https://twitter.com/CultureMK) and [#MK50](https://twitter.com/MK50) to keep updated.
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Our questions for you:

This is a fantastic opportunity to engage all Milton Keynes residents in activities to celebrate and take pride in Milton Keynes and we want to work with you to make that happen.

We want to know:

- **How you would like to be involved in MK 50?**
- **What projects or outputs you will be delivering in 2017 that could be part of MK 50?**
- **What low cost, high impact initiatives you could support/lead?**
- **Any great ideas for engaging the local community in MK 50?**