

Sustainability Strategy

Last updated: May 2025

Introduction

At MyMiltonKeynes BID, we recognise our responsibility to operate in a way that supports a greener, fairer, and more sustainable future. As an organisation working at the heart of Milton Keynes City Centre, we are committed to making a positive impact—not just for our levy payers, but through the way we run our own operations.

This strategy outlines how we are embedding sustainability into everything we do, from how we travel and communicate, to how we support our people, reduce waste, and lead by example. While our influence over certain areas—such as energy use in our managed office—is limited, we are taking clear and meaningful steps within our control to reduce our environmental footprint and promote ethical, inclusive business practices.

Our Commitment

We aim to lead by example in how we operate as a Business Improvement District. Our sustainability strategy is structured around three key pillars:

- Environmental responsibility
- Social value and inclusion
- Good governance

1. Environmental Responsibility

Waste Reduction and Resource Efficiency

- **Recycling in Place:** We've introduced recycling in our office and work with our building managers to ensure responsible waste disposal.
- **Reduced Printing:** We've moved toward digital-first communication and significantly reduced our internal printing.
- **Sustainable Publications:** When we do bulk print jobs, for example, our My-MK magazines, we use recycled paper and manage print volumes to minimise waste.
- **Paperless Board Packs:** Our Board packs and internal documents are now distributed digitally to avoid unnecessary paper use.

Active & Low-Carbon Transport

- **Electric Vehicle:** We are investing in a fully electric van to support our operational activity in a low-emission way.
- **Cycle Buy-Back Scheme:** We offer a scheme to help staff purchase bikes, promoting more sustainable commuting options.

Local Environment Action and Green Infrastructure

a. Litter Picking and Community Clean-Ups

Since 2024, MyMiltonKeynes has organised four litter-picking sessions annually around the City Centre and invited local businesses to participate. The team also support businesses host their own litter picking sessions.

b. Sustainable Landscaping Practices

Our landscaping operations are underpinned by a commitment to circular practices and environmental responsibility:

- All weeds removed by our landscaping team are composted locally at our depot and reused the following year.
- Hedge cuttings are chipped and used as mulch on flower beds to suppress weeds naturally and enrich the soil.
- All green waste and materials from our landscaping activities are recycled.
- We are transitioning our landscaping equipment from petrol to electric alternatives, significantly reducing emissions.

c. Enhancing Biodiversity

From summer 2025, we have introduced flower planters to Milton Keynes City Centre. These will not only brighten up the area and enhance the visual experience for visitors and residents, but also support urban biodiversity by attracting pollinators and contributing to a more resilient city ecosystem.

2. Social Value and Inclusion

Workplace Culture and Fairness

- Real Living Wage Employer: We are proud to pay all employees at least the Real Living Wage.
- Flexible Working: We offer flexible working arrangements to support work-life balance and reduce travel-related emissions.
- Staff Engagement: Our team is actively involved in shaping and delivering sustainability initiatives.

Equity, Diversity & Accessibility

- Neurodiversity Charter Signatory: We are a proud signatory of the Milton Keynes Umbrella Project Neurodiversity Charter, showing our commitment to inclusive employment.
- Purple Tuesday Employer: We support the Purple Tuesday movement and ensure our workplace is accessible and inclusive, and are rolling out a programme of measures to make the City Centre more accessible.
- Accessible Website: Our City Centre website meets full accessibility standards, ensuring everyone can access our services and information.

3. Good Governance

Ethical Procurement and Supplier Responsibility

- Sustainable Procurement Policy: We have reviewed and updated our procurement policy to prioritise suppliers with strong environmental, ethical, and local credentials.

Transparency and Oversight

- Paperless Reporting: Our Board and governance documents are shared digitally to reduce waste.
- Strategy Oversight: **This** sustainability strategy is owned by the leadership team and reviewed annually to assess progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

Next Steps

This strategy is a living document. As we grow and evolve, we will continue to expand our sustainability practices—exploring new opportunities for action, engaging our stakeholders, and remaining accountable for our progress.

Conclusion

Sustainability is core to how MyMiltonKeynes BID operates. From reducing our environmental footprint to championing fairness and accessibility, we are committed to shaping a city centre that works for everyone.