

Central  
Bedfordshire

**great**  
prospects

# Two year review of our Economic Strategy Implementation Plan 2022/2023 and 2023/2024



**A great place to live and work.**

Find us online  [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/economy](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/economy)  [www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral](https://www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral)  @letstalkcentral

# Introduction

---

## What is our Economic Implementation Plan Review?

It is our framework for how we intend to deliver the objectives we have set in our Economic Strategy under six key themes:



**Skills for the future**



**Making strategic relationships work for Central Bedfordshire**



**Supporting our businesses**



**Investing in infrastructure**



**Embedding our council in the local economy**



**Creating sustainable places for the future**





# Skills for the future

## What we proposed to deliver

- Develop a “Skills for All Strategy” and widen the scope of the strategy to include education, to ensure it covers support for all age groups and is holistic.
- Expand our employer-led approach to recruitment and sector-based work academies.
- Increase awareness of the Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) skills and employability offer to residents and businesses.
- Seek to broaden our curriculum offer to further meet labour market demands.
- Strengthen the relationships between the Council and local skills and employment stakeholders.
- Increase capacity to support those facing redundancy through the National Careers Services advice and improved employability provision.
- Continue to progress the work of The Health and Wellbeing Board, to tackle child poverty through a continued focus on work relating to alleviating poverty and deprivation.





# Skills for the future

## What we have delivered

- We are developing a Skills for All Strategy and Implementation Plan, positioned within the longer-term context and ambitions of Central Bedfordshire. We are linking this strategy with the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which is led by the Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the employer's voice is at the heart of the skills system. The strategy and plan will be based on a robust partnership approach, which is built on shared goals and existing partnership structures between the council, employers, schools, colleges, higher education institutions, employment & skills training providers, the community, and the voluntary sector. This is to ensure that our residents are equipped to realise their potential. The aim of the Strategy is to deliver inclusive growth where residents can access the education, skills, and employment support they need, to enable them to secure fulfilling, appropriate, sustainable careers throughout their lives, and which will support the prosperity of our local economy. We are now in the final stages of the strategy development, having been out to public consultation and conducted a thorough equality impact assessment, the outcomes of which will be used to strengthen the strategy and its associated priorities in preparation for requesting council adoption in Autumn 2024.
- We delivered Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding for early years settings (including private, voluntary, independent, and school-based settings) for eligible children aged 3 and 4 years old. This is designed to narrow the attainment gap between young children from low-income families and their peers, by improving their facilities, equipment and learning experiences, to benefit the growth and development of eligible children. The annual spend for 3 and 4-year-olds on EYPP was £186379 with 62pence per hour allocated to each child.
- We have provided good quality new school places with the expansion of Derwent Primary school in Henlow from a Lower school to a primary school with two additional year groups and 300 additional school places. We also provided 220 new secondary school places in Houghton Regis by opening Houstone School on the Kingsland estate, which is the first ever secondary school in Houghton Regis





## What we have delivered

- Over the past two years, we have had 110 apprenticeship starts which include Central Bedfordshire Council and Community or Voluntary Controlled school apprentices. Between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, there was an 11.2% increase in apprenticeship starts. In 2023/2024 32 people completed their apprenticeships and 4 have now started higher level apprenticeships. We transferred £39,500 of apprenticeship levy to three local health and social care organisations to support 3 apprenticeships in their workforces, which enabled each of these organisations to take up one apprentice.
- We took part in eight careers events held in local schools, to promote apprenticeships and careers at the Council. We also delivered a 26% increase in work experience placements within the Council which equated to 52 work experience placements over the last two years, mainly for local school pupils and a small number of college and university students.
- We increased our capacity to support those facing redundancy by expanding our Information Advice and Guidance capacity and offering one-to-one sessions to establish their learning and employment needs and enable them secure future employment. Over the past two years, we have supported 2090 residents with information advice and guidance, 571 residents into learning, and 444 residents into employment.
- We have strengthened our relationships and with JobCentre Plus and The Department for Work and pensions, by working together to support their clients into employment. We have jointly written a

bespoke course to improve the skills and employment opportunities of their customers, and we now have a weekly presence at Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard Jobcentres where we provide information, advice, and guidance to jobseekers.

- We have been working closely with The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and other organisations such as Jobs22 to identify employers that would be interested and willing to take on the Sector Based Work Academy approach. Recruitment opportunities have been identified and key organisations have been brought together to ensure a joined-up approach to recruitment. In implementing this approach, we have partnered with local childcare providers to offer an introductory course with a voluntary placement included, to encourage learners to gain employment or upskill in this sector. We have also delivered 17 introductory courses for early years and teaching assistants, in partnership with local schools and nurseries, supporting them to fill recruitment gaps. We continue to work with schools and early years settings to support upskilling of their staff and recruitment. “We delivered 41 new courses to meet the increased labour market intelligence and employer demand which





## What we have delivered

included; “Get Into Work”, an employability course to support those aged 50 years plus to get back into work, “Gateway to Employment” which supported adults with learning disabilities with skills into employment, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications to support those speaking English as an additional language.

Further introductory courses were offered for residents to gain a pathway into longer accredited courses such as “confident speaking”, “Introduction to volunteering”, “Introduction to early years” and “Understanding measures in life and work”.

Over the past two years, we have had 3857 course enquiries and 4542 enrolments on courses.

- We are Collaborating in a working group, to identify solutions and implement interventions which will develop training and employment opportunities for residents recovering from drug or alcohol dependency. This will include working with service users and employers to develop tailored programmes to increase employability and access to the job market for those in recovery.
- To increase our brand awareness around our employment and skills offer through Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy, we have rebranded the service, creating numerous promotional materials including booklets, flyers, and logos, ensuring that the branding is consistent on all materials, and more recognisable to residents.

- We also developed a comprehensive marketing plan which included creating a new website page to promote the full curriculum offer. The website provides a one-stop shop to support our residents in accessing all our services. Since our website went live in July 2023, over 14,404 people have visited the site. In addition, our Facebook page now has over 2427 followers, and we have 17247 subscribers to our bulletin. We have also been actively attending community events and career fairs, and we have done Royal Mail leaflet drops, Radio campaigns, and advertised at bus stops and supermarkets.





# Skills for the future

## In 2024/2025, we intend to deliver

- We will adopt the Skills for All strategy and start to implement its key actions.
- We will continue to work closely with local employers to identify skills gaps, and work with key stakeholders to address them.
- We will continue to promote our employment and skills offer and increase the number of residents we support.
- We will continue to work with a range of local employers to recruit apprentices, using a blended model of delivery.
- We will continue to provide free information advice and guidance to learners, to help them make decisions on learning, training, and work.
- We will expand the Early Years Pupil Premium to include eligible 2, 3 and 4-year-olds in any OFSTED registered childcare provider and we will use “Well Comm”, which is an Early Years assessment and intervention screening tool, to identify and understand young children’s speech, language, and communication needs, to determine how to support them.
- We will support learners on an individual basis, by providing them with learning material and linking them with support organisations depending on their individual needs.
- We will continue to deliver courses through both our in-house delivery team and subcontractors, to ensure progression pathways in response to popular demand.
- We will be amending our apprenticeship levy transfer request form to include asking if the organisation will be creating a new post or upskilling their existing staff, to enable us to assess the value and impact that the levy will have on the organisation.





# Making strategic relationships work for Central Bedfordshire

## What we proposed to deliver

- Influence geography wide strategic infrastructure projects to maximise benefits for Central Bedfordshire over the short, medium, and long term.
- We will continue to respond to and influence East West Rail proposals as they progress.
- We will continue to engage in the expansion proposals of Luton Airport, to ensure that economic benefits are maximised within Central Bedfordshire.
- We will deliver the Bedfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- Continue to maintain strategic relationships to create and enhance opportunities for our key growth sectors.
- Influence the Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership and its environmental and economic priorities for the benefit of our residents, businesses, and places.
- Continue to work pragmatically, so we are widely recognised as an organisation that secures and delivers positive change.
- Work with neighbouring local authorities and partners, to contribute to SEMLEP projects.



# Making strategic relationships work for Central Bedfordshire

## What we have delivered

- We have been working closely with England's Economic Heartlands on the work that they lead on relating to strategic transport projects in our region. We inputted into four transport corridor studies which are the Buckingham – Milton Keynes – Northampton study, the Oxford to Milton Keynes study, the South –East West study, and the Luton- Bedford – Corby study, which have resulted in new transport projects being identified in our region. England's Economic Heartlands are now producing a range of brochures showcasing these projects. The corridor studies have fed into an Investment Pipeline of projects which will be reviewed by the Department for Transport. We also supported England's Economic Heartlands (EEH) on their "Future of Roads" think piece.
- We are feeding into work National Highways (NH) are undertaking to assess improvements to the A1 between Sandy and Biggleswade. We also established a working group with NH and neighbouring authorities to discuss issues at Junction13. This has now successfully transitioned into a formal assessment of the junction which is being led by NH.
- We continue to engage with East West Rail through regular meetings, as they work towards the first of two statutory consultations which will run during the summer of 2024. We also support political engagement that takes place through the East West Mainline Partnership Board.
- We have formally engaged in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process for the expansion of Luton Airport, which is likely to take place in 2024.





## What we have delivered

- We have commenced a new Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire which is scheduled to be adopted in 2028. To support the new local plan, we are undertaking evidence studies internally as well as commissioning new, or updated, evidence studies with technical experts. The internal studies which have been commissioned include the Employment Land Review, Settlement Audit and Settlement Hierarchy, Settlement Envelopes Review, Density Study, and Site Assessment Methodology. We have also commissioned the following external studies; Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), Consultation & Engagement Strategy, Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
  - We have been working closely with England's Economic Heartlands on the work that they lead on relating to strategic transport projects in our region. We inputted into four transport corridor studies which are the Buckingham – Milton Keynes – Northampton study, the Oxford to Milton Keynes study, the South –East West study, and the Luton-Bedford – Corby study, which have resulted in new transport projects being identified in our region. England's Economic Heartlands are now producing a range of brochures showcasing these projects. The corridor studies have fed into an Investment Pipeline of projects which will be reviewed by the Department for Transport. We also supported England's Economic Heartlands (EEH) on their "Future of Roads" think piece.
  - We are feeding into work National Highways (NH) are undertaking to assess improvements to the A1 between Sandy and Biggleswade.
- We also established a working group with NH and neighbouring authorities to discuss issues at Junction13. This has now successfully transitioned into a formal assessment of the junction which is being led by NH.
- We continue to engage with East West Rail through regular meetings, as they work towards the first of two statutory consultations which will run during the summer of 2024. We also support political engagement that takes place through the East West Mainline Partnership Board.
  - We have formally engaged in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process for the expansion of Luton Airport, which is likely to take place in 2024.
  - We have commenced a new Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire which is scheduled to be adopted in 2028. To support the new local plan, we are undertaking evidence studies internally as well as commissioning new, or updated, evidence studies with technical experts. The internal studies which have been commissioned include the Employment Land Review, Settlement Audit and Settlement Hierarchy, Settlement Envelopes Review, Density Study, and Site Assessment Methodology. We have also commissioned the following external studies; Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), Consultation & Engagement Strategy, Sustainability Appraisal (SA).



## What we have delivered

- We are the responsible Local Authority for the Bedfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and we have been working with colleagues from both Luton and Bedford Borough Council's as well as colleagues from the Local Nature Partnership. We have engaged with a range of stakeholders including landowners and conservation organisations to capture suggested actions for nature recovery. This will help us develop our future priority outcomes and measures. The budget for this project is £238,000.
- We have been attending the Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership meetings and events, and we are represented by a Senior Officer on the Environmental Sub-Group. We are also represented on the Oxford to Cambridge Data observatory steering group, where we have been working with neighbouring local authorities, universities, and businesses to establish the OX-CAM Data Observatory. The Observatory is a platform providing transparent, unbiased, high quality, and frequently updated economic and environmental evidence, equipped with robust research and analytical capability. We are also part of the steering group for The Science Innovation and Technology Business Premises Study of the Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership and continue to liaise regularly with all our neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees to maintain strategic relationships.
- Our Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted on 1st August 2023, and it is a material consideration in determining planning applications. All development proposals are required to demonstrate that they have taken it into consideration. We also developed the Forest of Marston Vale Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with Bedford Borough Council, which was adopted in December 2022.
- Our Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was published for consultations on the 30th of October 2023. This SPD supports policies in the adopted Local Plan and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It sets out financial contributions required to deliver key infrastructure alongside growth within Central Bedfordshire. It was scheduled to go to executive committee for adoption on the 4th of June 2024.
- We have worked with 5 other neighbouring Local Authorities within the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area to support the transition of LEP functions to West Northamptonshire Council following the Government's decision to cease funding LEPS. We approved recommendations for West Northamptonshire Council to be the host authority to take on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions by 1 April 2024. These include strategic economic planning, the Growth Hub, which supports and strengthens businesses, and the Careers Hub, which links schools and colleges with employers to create world-class careers opportunities.





# Making strategic relationships work for Central Bedfordshire

## In 2024/2025, what we intend to deliver

- We will continue to engage with East West Rail through regular meetings, as they work towards the first of two statutory consultations, which is proposed to take place in the summer of 2024. We will also support political engagement that takes place through the East West Main Line Partnership Board.
- We will look for opportunity areas where measures for nature recovery could be delivered. Public consultation will be undertaken on the draft Nature Recovery Strategy in the autumn of 2024, with adoption by the three Bedfordshire local authorities (CBC, LBC, and BBC) scheduled for March 2025.
- We will continue to liaise regularly with all our neighbouring local authorities and Statutory consultees to maintain strategic relationships.
- We will continue to take part in the Ox-CAM data observatory steering group, by sharing knowledge and insights, and ensuring that our teams make maximum use of the platform.
- We will commission more studies to support the new local plan. They include the Water Cycle Study (WCS), the Green Belt Study, and the Grid Capacity Study.
- We will undertake baseline habitat surveys and contribute to outcomes for the area Biodiversity Net Gain and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.





# Supporting our businesses

## What we proposed to deliver

- Review and improve our Strategic Account Management (SAMS) approach.
- Deliver any further government funding to support businesses through Covid-19.
- Maximise the opportunity of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) allocation, through the investment plan approach to support employment & skills.
- Create a pipeline of opportunities for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation, through an investment plan approach, to support businesses, and to build on the successes from 21/22.
- Monitor the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund programmes.
- Increase the number of Central Bedfordshire businesses accessing business support.
- Organise a business leaders' event to re-engage with businesses across Central Bedfordshire
- Launch our new inward investment offer, to promote existing business, and to attract new businesses to the area.
- Update the Central Bedfordshire interactive map for our business website, to further showcase the social and economic potential of the area, to prospective investors and residents.





# Supporting our businesses



## What we have delivered

- We refreshed our Strategic Accounts Management (SAMs) list, based on sector profiles and existing key relationships. We continued to engage with SAMs to gain an understanding of their business needs, collate business intelligence and provide support as available via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programmes. We also continue to refer businesses to Business support partners as per their needs. Over the last two years, we have had 411 SAM support interactions from the 156 enquiries raised.
- We secured £2.06 million through an investment plan process from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund to support our local businesses. From the launch in October 2023 to the 31st of March 2024, we have supported 271 businesses to access business support programmes with a spend of £570,000 and the following Contract Values to end of March 2025:

Business Support Programme	Monetary Value	Delivering Organisation
Business Innovation support	£461,450.54	University of Bedfordshire
Business Start Up Social Enterprise Support	£495,159.84	WENTA
Business Scale up, Business Resilience	£495,159.84	Cranfield University
Exports Grants to grow Overseas Trading	£178,931.04	Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce
Local Business Decarbonisation	£432,874.08	Cranfield University



## What we have delivered

- We have continued promotion of our business support programmes through our dedicated business website (BeCentralBedfordshire.co.uk), our corporate communications, social media platforms, through business interactions, and through business support partners. We have also developed an annual marketing plan which sets out targets and milestones. Over the past 2 years, we published over 204 items on our Be Central Bedfordshire website and are posting an average of 8 postings a week on our Be Central Bedfordshire LinkedIn page, where we have over 800 followers. In the past two years, we have published over 41 issues of our “Let’s Talk Business” Newsletters As a direct result, our business support enquiries have increased by 31.6% over the past two years.
- We continually engage with, attend, and support relevant business networking events to keep engaged with our businesses and to ensure that they have the support that they require. Some of these events have included: Cranfield’s Venture Day, Town Council run business events, SME Business Awards, Leighton Buzzard Business Network and SEMLEP led events.
- We worked with neighbouring local authorities and partners, in the consultation phase for the delivery of the SEMLEP Business Survey, which was delivered in the first quarter of 2024 before SEMLEP formally closed. The survey aimed to identify economic issues and opportunities to support the growth of local businesses and the economy. The results of the SEMLEP business survey have helped to inform decisions on how to support businesses in the area.
- We have widely publicised our Inward Investment and Lifestyle brochure on the BeCentralBedfordshire.co.uk website. Our brochure has also been publicised by our partner organisations, which include inward Investment agencies, The Department for Business and Trade (DBT), South Midlands Growth Hub (formerly SEMLEP), Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce, agents, and developers. The Let’s Talk Business and B2B Newsletters have also been used to publicise our Inward Investment and Lifestyle Brochure. As part of our efforts to attract new investments into our area, we have worked with local agents and developers in helping to promote land and refer businesses to the area. As a direct result, we have seen a 64.2% increase in inward investment enquires since 2022.
- We have supported the relocation of new businesses including Bidfood, Noatum Logistics, Ocado, and Lidl Regional Distribution Centre. These businesses have created over 2000 jobs in the area. And we have developed and published a welcome guide for our new local businesses, which has been used to support them to settle into the area.
- We have completed and launched the development of the new interactive map, and we are currently developing further phases, including the development of linking vacant commercial properties on to the map. The map will be a valuable tool to inform business of the economic potential of our area.





# Supporting our businesses

## In 2024/2025, what we intend to deliver

- We will continue ongoing Strategic Accounts Management (SAM) Engagement and monitoring of support.
- We will continue to run the UKSPF and REPF funded programmes until March 2025.
- We will continue to capture data on our CRM to keep updated information and engage effectively with our businesses.
- We will continue to develop our inward investment offer and support, which includes making improvements to the website and homepage.
- We will be producing content which include, marketing videos and post-production, and we will be marketing this through various channels.
- We will continue working with agents and developers in the promotion of land and properties.
- We will support businesses with relocation, assisting them with employment and skills support.
- We will develop the final phases of our interactive map and promote it to prospective investors and monitor progress quarterly to implement any changes to keep it up to date and relevant.





# Investing in infrastructure

## We proposed to deliver

- Develop a project pipeline and integrated infrastructure plan, so we are ready to deliver opportunities, and ready to apply for external funding when it becomes available.
- Continue delivery of Biggleswade High Infrastructure Fund Projects which include:
  - Delivery of Lindsells Footbridge
  - Delivery of Biggleswade Transport Interchange
  - Commence delivery of the substation in Biggleswade
- We will deliver 13 school extension projects.
- Develop a Local Transport Plan to identify, influence and deliver flagship travel investment opportunities.
- Deliver a new bus service for Bidwell West and Linmere, linking the developments and Leagrave railway station, using funding secured through a Section 106 agreement.
- We will deliver a suite of active travel improvements to the east of Leighton Buzzard to improve permeability between existing and new developments, using funding secured through a Section 106 agreement.
- Influence future digital (public/private) infrastructure investment – this will include full fibre rollout and addressing pockets of poor connectivity.
- Begin delivery on the Levelling Up Funding money received for Houghton Regis Community and Leisure Centre.
- Deliver schemes around the Levelling Up fund for the improvement of Clophill roundabout.
- Deliver the Arlesey Relief Road scheme.
- Deliver the Flitwick Transport Interchange scheme secured through a combination of SEMLEP 'Get Building Fund', CBC capital and Section 106 funding.





# Investing in infrastructure



## What we have delivered

- We delivered the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), that sets out the infrastructure required to support the delivery of allocation housing and employment growth in the adopted Local Plan. This is a live document that is updated periodically to reflect on changing costs, and it was recently updated in October 2023 alongside the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document.
- We have begun delivery of Lindsells Bridleway bridge, with a government High Infrastructure Funding allocation of £6,984,882. This bridleway bridge at Lindsell's Level crossing will ensure that residents have a safer way to cross the East Coast Mainline.
- We have delivered Biggleswade Transport Interchange, using a High Infrastructure Fund government grant allocation of £2,306,062, and section 106 funding of £100,000. This project supports transformation and growth in the town, and it will ensure that the station can accommodate future demand, making it an important gateway into Biggleswade and Central Bedfordshire.
- We commenced delivery of the substation in Biggleswade with a government High Infrastructure Funding allocation of £46,063,236. The substation delivery is well underway and is due to be energised by February 2025. The new Super Grid will initially boost power capacity by an additional 80MW, allowing for residential and employment growth, with the balance of 160MW available as demand increases through housing, employment, electric vehicles, heat pumps and renewable technology over the longer term.
- We have delivered Arlesey Relief Road. This new relief road created between Arlesey High Street and the A507 opened in November 2023, and it has helped with easing congestion, improving road safety, and reducing journey times for motorists heading toward the A507.
- We have established a new bus service for Bidwell West in Houghton Regis. The new 'Hi!' service provides an hourly connection to Luton and Dunstable. We have also extended the Arriva Z service to Linnere. The Z service provides the residents of Linnere with a 10-minute frequency bus service to Luton and Dunstable.
- We have delivered Flitwick interchange using the SEMLEP Get Building Fund to the tune of £2,219,037, and £167,647 from a section 106 agreement. The new transport interchange connects bus and rail services and features some improvements, which include:
  - A new station forecourt with pedestrian, cycle, and vehicle access.
  - A new passenger drop-off and dedicated taxi areas.





## What we have delivered

- A public transport interchange with three bus stops, passenger waiting areas including real-time departure information.
- Improvements to Steppingley Road, including vehicle access to both the station and Tesco opposite.
- Dedicated facilities for Centre Parcs Woburn passenger collection and drop-off.
- We held stakeholder consultations between the 31st of October 2022 to the 7th of December 2022 to approve the prescribed alterations to the schools within the Biggleswade cluster area. The projects consulted on included.
  - Wrestlingworth Lower School to become a split site infant / junior school with Dunton.
  - Dunton Lower School to become a split site infant / junior school, with Wrestlingworth. This combined project will create 75 additional places across the two villages from September 2024 by changing the age range of both schools and creating accommodation for children in Year 5 and Year 6.
  - St Andrews East Lower School to become a primary school with no additional places created for the long term, but temporary places required to manage the change in age range for higher numbers in the older year groups within the school, whilst fewer pupils enter in the reception year.
  - Sutton Lower School to become a primary school. This project will create 15 additional places from September 2024 by changing the age range of the school and creating accommodation for children in Year 5 and Year 6.
  - Edward Peake Middle School to become a secondary school. This project will create 60 additional places from September 2024 by changing the age range of the school and creating accommodation for the change from a middle school to a secondary school.
- As part of the school transformation projects within the Schools for the Future Programme, we delivered a new teaching block in Swallowfield School in Woburn Sands, which is part of the school transformation program to change from a middle school to a primary school, creating 120 additional places. We also delivered a new teaching block in Fulbrook school in Woburn Sands, which is part of the transformation program from a middle school to a secondary school creating 120 additional places. We commenced the delivery of the transformation and expansion of Sandy secondary School. This is part of a project which entails the construction of a new teaching block, a new Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) block, and a new all-weather sports pitch built ahead of a refurbishment of the existing school building. With a current capacity of 1,145 pupils, the construction of a new teaching and SEND block will allow the school to accommodate up to 1,440 pupils when the full programme of work is completed.
- We have delivered active travel improvements to Heath Road in Leighton Buzzard to ease travel by foot or by bike to local play areas, schools, and other amenities. This will be delivered with part of the £600,000 funding from the Central Government's Active Travel Fund.





## What we have delivered

- We have joined the Oxfordshire County Council's 5G Innovation Region Consortium, bringing together local authorities in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Central Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Oxfordshire with a mission to accelerate 5G private network adoption, releasing untapped potential for innovation and economic growth across the region. The consortium is in a unique position to act as an enabler, convening businesses with telecommunication and infrastructure providers to create a thriving marketplace for adoption. Whilst initial pilots are focused on two primary deployments in Oxfordshire, they are designed to be replicable within the region and around the UK. Central Government have now awarded the Project Gigabit contract for Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, and Northamptonshire to City Fibre. They will deliver gigabit services to 25,760 premises across the 4 local authority areas over the next 5 years. There will be several delivery phases of which the first will commence in August 2024. This will initially see around 1,100 premises delivered within Central Bedfordshire. Planning of future phases will run in parallel with the deployment phases.
- We began construction of the new Leisure Centre in Houghton Regis. This project which benefits from a £20million Government Levelling Up Fund will offer residents a range of high-quality, modern sports facilities and community amenities.
- We completed the Clophill Roundabout improvements in March 2024. This £6.8 million project includes creating two lanes on all four approaches and exits to the roundabout, increasing capacity and allowing more vehicles to get through the junction at the same time. The scheme was carried out to help ease congestion, improve road safety, and reduce journey times for motorists. There will now be a 12-month period to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of delivery, value for money, and the impact of the project, in line with the Levelling Up funding agreement.





# Investing in infrastructure

## In 2024/2025, what we intend to deliver

- We will complete delivery of the Biggleswade substation.
- We will complete delivery of the Houghton Regis Leisure Centre.
- We will commence construction of a new leisure centre in Leighton-Linslade on the site in Clipstone Brook.
- We will review our construction framework to identify how modern methods of construction can support local jobs and businesses.
- We will deliver the expansion and transformation project at Sandy Secondary School.
- We will complete remodelling of teaching spaces at Biggleswade Academy to make sure classrooms meet the latest standards for effective learning and to support the merge of the school's lower and middles schools, into a primary school.
- We will complete the remodelling of classrooms at Caldecote Academy near Biggleswade and create a new space for practical lessons.
- We will commence the delivery of the transformation of Edward Peake School in Biggleswade from a middle school to a secondary school, with building a new sports hall to replace the existing facility.





# Embedding our Council in the local economy

## We proposed to deliver

- Review our Asset Management Strategy, taking in account the local economy and place benefits of council assets.
- Maximise the economic potential of Holme Farm Biggleswade.
- Explore and adopt progressive approaches to procurement to maximise social value and sustainability principles.
- Ensure that our employment practices are contributing to a fair and secure labour market.
- Increase the number of apprenticeships and work experience places at the council.
- Create apprenticeship opportunities for young people who are looked after in social care.
- Create targeted apprenticeship opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Invest £667,000 of The Homelessness Prevention Grant provided by government to help prevent homelessness, with particular focus on homelessness resulting from domestic abuse and rough sleeping.
- Invest up to £1.8Million in the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme to assist residents with disabilities, to make their homes safer, improve quality of life, and in some cases to prevent admission to health or care settings. The Investment includes £668,000 of external funding.
- Continue to tackle empty homes in Central Bedfordshire, with an aim to bringing between 60 to 90 priority empty homes back into use.
- Deliver new affordable housing units through new development and acquisition of suitable completed housing.
- Work with partners to encourage visitors to come, stay and spend in Central Bedfordshire.





# Embedding our Council in the local economy

## What we have delivered

- We have drafted our new Housing Asset Management Strategy which sets out our plans to maximise the use of council housing and council owned buildings, landscapes, and garages, and we held consultations on our approach between February and April 2023.
- We have made an executive decision to sell Holme Farm, and a project board has been created to take charge of managing the disposal project.
- We have now published our Social Value policy. This gives a definitive corporate direction for Central Bedfordshire which highlights the specific areas that would benefit our residents the most. We have implemented social value in our procurements, to ensure that additional economic, community or environmental benefits are generated through how we deliver services, including when procuring goods, works or services from the Council's suppliers. The National Social Value Measurement Framework known as TOMS is used to measure the Themes Outcomes and Measures of contracts and is designed to articulate social value outcomes in terms that can be objectively assessed. To maximise the effectiveness of this social value policy, while maintaining efficiency of the provision cycle, all contracts over £100,000 are required to have a 10% weighting for Social Value. The Council will be using a portal during the

tendering process to monitor supplier performance in the delivery of this added social value during the contract lifecycle. Candidate bidders will be able to enter the details of their social value bid response onto the Portal by the deadline, ready for bid evaluation and business award processes. This is a big step change in our social value and sustainability development to unlock the massive potential in drawing out benefits from our larger contracts. Under the new emphasis on social value using the TOMS measurement system, we have awarded 7 projects with a total contract value of £19,016,999.12 which have included Social Value commitments of £4,072,359.55.





## What we have delivered

- We have made our job application process accessible via all mobile devices, with a new system to facilitate this process. We also implemented hybrid contracts across the council's workforce where suitable and we have made hybrid contracts accessible to new starters. We expanded and strengthened a broad range of 9 employee networks focused on Equality Diversity and Inclusion, and wellbeing. We have also continued to work with Matrix in creating a robust way of recruiting temporary staff. Our policies have been adapted to ensure that they are compliant with family friendly legislation, and we have reviewed our Code of Conduct, which we will be launching it in 2024/2025. We have also reviewed our Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and created a brand-new menopause guidance document. This is to help support employees going through the menopause by providing managers and their colleagues with a better understanding of the menopause and the practical steps needed to support employees with menopausal symptoms.
- We have developed a ring-fenced work experience offer for care experienced young people, and we recruited one care experienced young person to a council post on this programme in 2023/2024. We also negotiated with local employers to provide guaranteed interviews for care leavers, by adding a tick box to their applications so that it would be easier for care leavers to indicate and be offered a guaranteed interview where they meet essential requirements. We continue to support care experienced young people by preparing them for apprenticeships, and we have collaborated with local employers to create apprenticeship opportunities for young people in care, or care leavers.
- We invested £1.76Million in our Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant Programme to provide major adaptations for residents with disabilities, to make their homes safer, improve the quality of their lives, and in some cases to prevent admission to health or care settings. This investment included £584,000 of Government funding and resulted in 141 Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants being delivered, providing 269 adaptation measures installed into residents' homes.
- We have used The Homelessness Prevention Grant, which was about £667,000, to support the prevention of homelessness by funding a range of different initiatives related to this activity. These include, funding the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), formerly Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust (BPPT) to install security measures via the Bobby scheme, to ensure that those affected by domestic abuse can safely remain in their homes. Also, funding a homeless mediation service, and funding the Let's Rent scheme for deposits, and supporting rough sleeper initiatives. The funding is used in a flexible way to ensure that person-centred approaches can be taken to preventing homelessness and ending rough sleeping.





## What we have delivered

- We spent a total of £0.32Million (gross) from the Empty Homes Capital programme in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to deal with issues associated with empty homes such as unauthorised access and rodent infestations, and to ultimately bring the properties back into use. Using a mixture of advice, financial assistance, and enforcement, a total of 213 empty properties were brought back into use during this period, which exceeded the set targets. During this period three CBC-managed tenancies commenced in properties that the Council took control of and renovated under Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs), and the Council's first Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) empty home was sold. A second CPO transferred to the Council at the end of the period, is to be renovated and sold in 2024/25. The budget for this programme is set within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan and includes income from repayments of previous empty home loan assistance, enforcement works, and rental income from EDMO properties.
- In the last two years, we have delivered 254 affordable homes in total, with 155 homes delivered in 2022/2023 and 99 new affordable homes in 2023/2024. Of the above, 98 were delivered by the development of Grove View, Dunstable (underpinned by £3.6M of Homes England funding), and 57 additional units delivered at All Saints View, Houghton Regis (underpinned by £2.11M of Homes England funding).





# Embedding our Council in the local economy

## In 2024/2025, what we intend to deliver

- We will continue to lay emphasis on delivering social value in our large procurements and in our services.
- We will deliver a policy and process focused on reasonable adjustments in the workplace for our staff, which is more inclusive and will improve working conditions for a wider range of people.
- We will be reviewing our policies to ensure they are compliant with the Sexual Harassment legislation that is coming into effect in October 2024.
- We will be publishing the workplace Adjustment Policy and procedure in 2024/2025.
- In 2024/2025 we will be further developing our approach to using apprenticeships to support workforce planning, with a particular focus on social work, planning, project management and accountancy. We are expecting to start 20 people on these apprenticeships. The social work and planning apprenticeships programmes are part of multi-year programmes to create career pathways at the council. Specialist areas including occupational therapy, archaeology and youth work will also recruit apprentices.
- We will continue to offer apprenticeships to our staff in care roles to support recruitment and retention initiatives.
- We will expand the number of council departments who offer work experience placements to showcase the careers available at the council and pilot new approaches to include group placements. We will also collaborate with local colleges to offer work experience placements to support vocational courses and expand the work experience programme for care experienced young people.
- In 2024/2025 we intend to achieve our target of 60 empty properties brought back into use, and we have set the budget at £0.2Million gross (£0.16Million Net) for this.





# Creating sustainable places for the future

## We propose to deliver.

- Develop our new approach to place, working with local stakeholders to develop strategies which respond to the specific challenges and opportunities of each location.
- Update our Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- Work to support the delivery of a garden community East of Biggleswade.
- Deliver a new cycle hire scheme for residents of Biggleswade, in partnership with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BedsRCC) and the cycle hire company, App-Bike.
- We will ensure that new developments deliver Biodiversity Net Gain across Central Bedfordshire.
- Progress work on a Sustainable Travel Corridor in Biggleswade to determine preferred routes and detailed design.
- Progress the update of a suite of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).
- Direct Council delivery of homes through New Vista Homes.





# Creating sustainable places for the future



## What we have delivered

- We adopted a Housing Technical Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) supporting a mix of homes for all, including the delivery of affordable housing. It is a material consideration in determining planning applications, and all development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they have taken it into consideration.
- We delivered a Mitigation Strategy for the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation in March 2023, and successfully designated seven open spaces, as Strategic Alternative Green Spaces (SANGs), to mitigate the impact of development in parts of Southern Central Bedfordshire on the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation. This strategy will enable growth within a designated Zone of Influence, which encompasses part of Central Bedfordshire and maps out how we will support the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces within Central Bedfordshire, by enhancing open spaces within and around the zone.
- We have developed a suite of ambitious Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for all major conurbations. Each plan provides a blueprint for a network of high-quality routes linking to frequented local destinations such as shops, schools, and stations. We have also adopted five of these plans following resident and stakeholder engagement exercises. The high standards of infrastructure demanded by Active Travel England are increasingly reflected our Council's policies and strategies.
- We have made substantial progress in master planning and implementing Green Wheels, which are circular walking and cycling routes with various links to town centres. This is to improve access from countryside local green spaces to town centres. The Potton Green Wheel Plan, which was adopted in 2021 has been implemented, with the official opening of the route on the 17th of September 2023. We are currently implementing an active travel scheme for Marston Moretaine, and we have delivered an Active Travel Scheme at Heath Road in Leighton Buzzard, which has been in use for a year. Sustainable transport options in Biggleswade have also been developed and the design for a sustainable travel corridor has been developed to connect existing and new communities in Eastern Biggleswade with key destinations in town such as the High Street, the train station, and the new transport interchange. The travel corridor also provides access to the new facilities and open spaces developed in part of the East of Biggleswade.





## What we have delivered

- We have expanded our work on promoting sustainable travel at schools by getting 10 schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, the national school awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools who have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. We ran Bikeability lessons in schools, which resulted in engaging 7675 pupils in active travel, bringing active travel in line with national targets.
- We delivered a cycle hire scheme which began running for residents living on the Bidwell West and Linmere new housing developments in Houghton Regis in August 2023. We also launched a cycle-hire scheme in Biggleswade in partnership with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and “App-Bike” the cycle hire company. This project is being funded by a section 106 Agreement secured by Public Health. The annual budget for this scheme is approximately £6,000 Per Annum, and we have had up to 213 bike rentals on App-Bike.
- The Central Bedfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy was adopted in December 2023 which outlines the Council’s approach to the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure for both public and residential charging. We secured £1.41 million in the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund, and we have appointed BP as a contracted Charge Point Operator. Through this partnership with BP, we have commenced delivery on 10 BP Pulse rapid charge point installations sites and 152 residential charge points are underway.
- In 2023, the Council introduced an electric vehicle salary sacrifice lease scheme for staff, to provide access to competitive offers on new electric vehicles to help transition the grey fleet.
- With our partners Homes England and Biggleswade Town Council, we have commissioned studies to guide the delivery of future growth as part of the garden community. East of Biggleswade Garden Village was included in Homes England’s Garden Communities Programme in 2019, with 1,500 new homes currently approved for development. These studies seek to ensure that the garden community is reflective of local characteristics and is truly sustainable. An energy strategy and a biodiversity strategy have been produced to guide future development.





## What we have delivered

- We have ensured that council-led and commissioned capital building projects have embraced sustainability by prioritising energy efficiency, water efficiency, low carbon, and economic viability at initial design stage. This has resulted in several buildings being delivered to PassivHaus standards. These include Steppingley Road Senior Living Village (Flitwick), Thornhill School (Houghton Regis), and Marigold House in Leighton Buzzard which is near completion.
- We have completed 5 lighting upgrade projects at our schools and nurseries. The upgraded LED lighting improves the school environment and reduces electric costs for schools while offering a sustainable solution, which supports the wider ambitions of the Council. The schools that have recently benefited from these projects are Leedon Lower, Laburnum Lower, Houghton Conquest Lower, Beaudersert Lower, and Linslade Nursery
- We have been working in collaboration with our neighbouring local authorities and iChoosr in the promotion of Solar Together which is a group-buying scheme for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. The scheme also offers the installation of battery storage and an electric vehicle charge point. These measures will help residents to generate their own renewable energy, cut energy bills, and reduce carbon emissions. The first round of the scheme took place in Summer 2022 with over 2,500 registrations of interest and over 400 accepting their offer and progressing to the detailed survey stage. The installations have been underway.
- We published a Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy to identify strategic gaps in the network. This refers to the network of natural and semi-natural features (including the water environment) within and between urban and rural areas. GBI is not limited to traditional green spaces such as parks but can include various interventions to thread nature into streetscapes or to increase connectivity between GBI assets at various landscape scales. It builds on existing work to understand both the strengths and weaknesses of Central Bedfordshire's GBI network and to identify priorities for enhancement. It also presents an over-arching vision for the network, which provides the framework for a mutually supportive set of projects. These projects work toward the common goal of a wilder, more resilient, and healthier Central Bedfordshire.
- We have planted over 70,000 trees and 1500 km of new hedgerow. We have also created 7 new tiny forests in urban areas. We continue to offer our Community Tree Planting and Hedgerow Grant and continue schemes we introduced such as Climate for Trees funded woodland at Beeston, urban treescape planting on the highway, Tiny Forests project, and the community tree giveaways. We donated grants worth £185, 000 to over 65 tree planting projects. We also introduced our new Woodland Creation offer to all public and private landowners, schools, community groups and parish councils. We are offering comprehensive support and tailored advice for woodland creation and hedgerow planting projects of any scale across Central Bedfordshire. This work has been made possible by a successful bid to The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund, which is a two-year programme designed to rapidly increase tree and woodland cover across the country. We have also received support from the Forest of Marston Vale.





# Creating sustainable places for the future

## In 2024/2025, what we intend to deliver

- In 2024/2025 New Vista Homes, a company owned by CBC, will develop, and deliver 24 homes and 3 plots for self-build on its site at Northwood End Road Haynes. The homes will be for affordable rent, shared ownership, and market sale.
- We will be holding resident and stakeholder engagement sessions to progress the update of a 6th Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan after adopting the first 5 plans.
- We will develop a Green Wheel Masterplan for Ampthill-Flitwick and Leighton-Linslade and we will progress with master planning for new Green Wheels for the communities of Toddington-Harlington, Marston Vale, and Dunstable Houghton Regis.
- We will meet with the new site promoters for the garden community East of Biggleswade, and we will begin work to progress the project.
- We will deliver the 88 apartment Independent Living scheme on Steppingley Road Flitwick, which is being built to Passivhaus standards and should be completed in 2024/25. Homes England funding of £4.4M has been secured towards the costs of development.
- We will deliver another 81 public EV charge points in 2024.
- We will deliver a climate change risk assessment by the end of this financial year.
- We will submit our 3rd Local Authority Treescapes Funding application for a proposed value of almost £285k, to fund the planting and 3 years of maintenance for 3 more Tiny Forests and 160 large Highways and Countryside sites trees.
- We will complete delivery of 10 woodland creation sites currently in the pipeline for delivery this winter on private farmland, a private smallholding, CBC tenant farmland, and Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve.





# Measuring our performance

## The need to measure performance

It is important that as a council we are able to monitor our performance and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions we set out in this plan.

To do so, a written annual report will be produced which will set out the actions, outputs, outcomes and benefits attributed to each action.

To support this process and to track change in the local economy and society, a range of indicators have been selected. These indicators are broken into four distinct areas:

- **Economy**
- **Enterprise**
- **Society & Inclusive Growth**
- **Infrastructure**

The changes in the local area will be benchmarked against the performance seen nationally and will be reported on annually on the following basis:

**Green** – trend improving relative to the national position

**Amber** – trend tracking the national position

**Red** – trend worsening relative to the national position

Whilst these indicators will give a sense of the performance of the strategy and the actions of the council, they should not be taken in isolation and should be considered against wider qualitative factors. There should also be an appreciation that the council is only one player (amongst many) in influencing the indicators listed.

The full indicator dashboard includes the indicator, its source, the benchmark required and the reporting timescales.





# Measuring our performance

## Indicator Framework

Theme	Indicator	Measure	Source	Frequency	Target Trend	Release Date
<b>Economy</b>	Total number of jobs	% jobs growth	Business register and employment survey	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	November
<b>Economy</b>	Total enterprises	% business growth	UK business count	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	August
<b>Economy</b>	GVA per filled job	% GVA per filled job growth	Subregional productivity: labour productivity	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	February
<b>Economy</b>	Jobs in priority sectors	% jobs growth	Business register and employment survey	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	November
<b>Economy</b>	Businesses in priority sectors	% business growth	UK business count	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	August
<b>Enterprise</b>	Enterprise start-up rate	% change in business starts	Business demography	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	November
<b>Enterprise</b>	Enterprise survival rate	% change in 2 year business survival	Business demography	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	November
<b>Enterprise</b>	Growth in scaling companies	% change in 2 year business survival	Scale up institute	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	August





# Measuring our performance

Theme	Indicator	Measure	Source	Frequency	Target Trend	Release Date
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Economically active (16-64)	% change in economic activity rate	Annual population survey (APS)	Annual	Reduction against national levels	December/ January
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Claimant count	% change in claimant count	Nomis	Annual	Reduction against national levels	Monthly
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Qualification levels (e.g., % residents with NVQ4+ aged 16-64)	% change in residents with NVQ4+	Annual population survey (APS)	Annual	Increase above national growth levels	December/ January
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Pupils eligible for free school meals	% change in pupils eligible for free school meals	Gov.UK education statistics	Annual	Reduction against national levels	February
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET	% change in 16-17 olds NEET	Department for Education	Annual	Reduction against national levels	July
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Proportion of children in education with SEN	% change in 16-17 year olds NEET	Department for Education	Annual	Reduction against national levels	August
<b>Society &amp; Inclusive Growth</b>	Number of apprentices employed by the council	Change from the 2020 position	Internal reporting	Annual	Increase above 2020 position	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Average journey time to key services by public transport	Change in average time	Department for Transport	Annual	Reduction against national levels	December





# Measuring our performance

Indicator	Measure	Source	Central Bedfordshire's Economic Indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of jobs	%jobs growth	BRES	%change in job count	2.8	-1.82	-1.85	3.77	-0.91		
Total Enterprise	% Business growth	UK Business Count	%change in business counts	-17.1	5.5	-9.9	-0.9	1.1	-1.3	
GVA Per filled job	% change in GVA per filled job growth	sunregional productivity	GVA per job filled	-0.73	-4.57	-2.18	1.39	2.62		
Enterprise start up rate	% change in business start-ups	Business Demography	% change in business start-ups	-2	-31.3	-13.5	12.8	-9.3		
Business in priority sectors	%business growth	UK Business Count	Business growth in priority sectors	-6.01	-1.13	3.8	2.56	-1.43	-9.78	
Jobs in Priority Sectors	%job growth	BRES	Job Growth In priority sectors	1.12	-8.36	-0.04	17.54	-15.92		
Enterprise survival rate	% change in 2 years business survival	Business Demography	Business survival rate	-34.8	-0.9	-7.6				
Economically active 16-64	%change in economic activity	Annual Population Survey	% change in Economically Active 16-64 year olds	-0.4	-1.08	2.18	0.13	2.13	3.13	





# Measuring our performance

Indicator	Measure	Source	Central Bedfordshire's Economic Indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
claimant count	% change in claimant count	nomis	% change in claimant count 16-64 year olds	17.4	24.2	296.1	-18.2	-37.8	-4.5	8.4
Qualification levels	% change in residents with NVQ4+	Annual Population Survey	Qualifications Equivalent to NVQ level 4+	23.9	8.2	4	-1.9			
Pupils Eligible for free school meals	% change in pupils eligible for free school meals	Gov.UK Education statistics	Percentage of Pupils eligible for free school meals	-2.8	20	14.3	23.5	11.9	9.6	6.3
Proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET	%change in 16-17 year olds NEET	Department for Education	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEET or not known	-0.4	-1.2	0.7	-1	0	-1.5	
proportion of children in Education with SEN	% change in 16-17 year olds in education with SEN	Department for Education	Percentage of 16-17 year olds in education / Training with SEN			-5.6	0.2	5.7	0.5	
Number of Apprentices Employed by the council	% change over time	Internal council records	Apprentices employed by CBC	36.4	46.7	-28.8	29.8	-19.7	11.5	



# Central Bedfordshire in contact

Central  
Bedfordshire


**great**  
prospects

## **Find out more**

For more information about this publication, further copies, or a large print copy, get in touch.


## **Please recycle me!**


When finished with, please put me in your recycling bin or bag.

 [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/economy](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/economy)

 [www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral](http://www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral)

 @letstalkcentral

 [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

 0300 300 8000