



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Coop Futures working with
Milton Keynes Council

Co-operative Options for Landscaping Services in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes is a fully parished council with 48 parish and town councils (P&TCs). In 2014 Milton Keynes Council (MKC) began the process of devolving the delivery of some landscaping services to P&TCs. Twelve P&TCs took up this offer and have been successfully managing their local services. All twelve make additional financial contributions from their precept.

In 2020, MKC engaged Co-operative Futures (CF) to explore the co-operative options for P&TCs and the delivery of landscaping services going forward. For a co-operative option to be advantageous for both MKC and the P&TCs it must be able to provide an enabling framework for participation irrespective of size or capacity.



The recommendation from CF was the creation of a **Direct Delivery Co-operative Consortium** to deliver landscaping services, which will have MKC and the P&TCs as its members. Over time the co-operative will recruit its own staff and all P&TCs will become members to maximise economies of scale.

The speed at which a co-operative could be created is dependent upon the willingness of P&TCs to take the initiative forward. It may be that a group of P&TCs are keen to set up a co-operative within six months or alternatively it may take years to bring all P&TCs on board. MKC aims for the creation of the co-operative consortium over the next five to ten years.

In terms of finance, the total amount of the grant for all the participating P&TCs would be paid directly to the co-operative by MKC (it is currently paid individually to devolved P&TCs). The budgets for each P&TC would then be ringfenced within the co-operative, and each P&TC would draw down the services they need to the value of their budget. P&TCs would then also be able to “purchase” additional services using the precept.

MKC are now working with the P&TCs to implement the recommendations, by facilitating further devolution and collaborative working. They will continue to work with the devolved parishes by supporting them in biodiversity, mapping and equipment sharing.

For further information contact:

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