



## **Contrasting Local Area**

This information is designed to help you prepare your students for the visit before they come to Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre. As the Milton Keynes fieldtrip is being used as a Contrasting Local Area, your students have no doubt studied their own local area in some depth. Nevertheless, below you will find some basic information about Milton Keynes. Much of this will be covered during your visit, either as part of the presentation or during the study tour. You may however feel that you wish to introduce this information to your students prior to your visit, the presentation will then act as a refresher session.

### **Milton Keynes – Facts & Figures**

- Milton Keynes was designated (created) as a New Town in 1967
- It is the largest of 32 new towns created since the introduction of the New Towns Act, 1946
- The designated area of the new town was almost 9,000 hectares and included the existing towns of Bletchley, Stony Stratford, and Wolverton together with 13 villages. The population within the area at designation was approximately 40 000.
- The current population of Milton Keynes is 216 850
- Around 25% of the population of Milton Keynes is under 18.
- Despite its size Milton Keynes has not yet been granted city status
- Milton Keynes is de-centralised, i.e. there is a mix of land uses distributed evenly across the town.
- Central Milton Keynes provides an exception to this dispersal of land use, providing both central shopping and business districts.
- 22% of the area of Milton Keynes is designated as park land.
- Main roads are constructed along a grid pattern. This is designed to eliminate congestion, as it provides a number of different routes to one place.
- These grid roads intersect at approximately 1km intervals.
- Linear parks follow the natural features of the Grand Union Canal, and the rivers Ouse and Ouzel.
- These parks have streams and channels which allow excess rainfall to run off into the town's 13 balancing lakes. Without these lakes Milton Keynes would be susceptible to flooding.
- The Redway system is the name given to Milton Keynes' cycle and pedestrian routes. These allow cyclists and pedestrians to travel around the town whilst avoiding the busy grid roads. There are around 275km of Redways.
- Milton Keynes is set to double in size by 2031. It has a projected population by that date of around 345 000 by this date.