

# Milton Keynes Business Crime Strategy is launched



Supt Vince Grey and Philip Smith

the MK Business Leaders website and a hard copy booklet. In April Superintendent Vince Grey, the then local policing area commander for Milton Keynes kindly agreed to join a photo call at MK Police Station with Philip Smith.

Philip said: "Crime is a problem that creates an extra cost for all businesses, their clients and customers, and the growth of online fraud, identity theft and cybercrime adds a new complexity that the whole business community must understand and defend themselves against.

"Until now Milton Keynes did not have a specific strategy to tackle business crime, but with Thames Valley Police, MK Business Leaders has pulled one together, and together all of us can help protect ourselves, our businesses and customers," he said.

Supt Grey said: "This is a great opportunity for the police and local businesses in Milton Keynes to tackle the ever growing and complicated issue of crime committed through the use of technology."

The Milton Keynes Business Crime Strategy, produced by MK Business Leaders Partnership with Thames Valley Police has been officially launched.

Circumstances delayed the public announcement, but the strategy has been available as a pdf download from

# Business Leaders giving back

As part of its work supporting and developing business in Milton Keynes, MK Business Leaders makes grants to organisations that contribute directly and indirectly to business growth across the city.

Recipients of awards for 2017/18, as agreed by the MK Business Leadership Partnership board are:

MK Young Enterprise  
MK College Student of the Year  
Sport Milton Keynes  
SportsAid  
MK City Orchestra  
Medical Detection Dogs  
Action4Youth  
MK Community Foundation  
MK Snap  
Ride High  
Women Leaders Awards  
Maggie's Cancer in the Workplace Charity  
Bright Sparc Awards  
Worktree



## Business Leaders welcome visitors from Chinese mega-city

A high level visit from the Chinese 'mega-city' of Shenzhen has been hailed a great success, highlighting the work of MK Business Leaders in paving the way for international trade relationships.

MK Business Leaders welcomed more than 20 representatives of the property, construction, technology, investment, education and media sectors from Shenzhen, situated north of Hong Kong. It is one of the fastest growing cities in China and in 2016 had a GDP of \$294 billion.

The trip in April was organised by the China International Capital Innovation Research Institute and Tim Cullen Associates. Tim said Milton Keynes was the first choice of destination outside London as it represented much of what has made Shenzhen an economic and technological powerhouse. Delegates were told about Milton Keynes becoming a Smart City, being a test-bed for autonomous vehicle technology and the hub of the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor.

At Transport Systems Catapult, Pan Jun, Executive Chairman of the Board of China Fantasia Holdings said: "From what I have seen, Shenzhen and Milton Keynes are genetically the same." Mr Pan said he looked forward to welcoming a return visit to his city and seeing representatives from Milton Keynes' technology companies there.

Other stops included Bletchley Park and The Open University. MK Business Leaders' chair Philip Smith said: "We were delighted and honoured to welcome our friends from China and hope they felt at home in Milton Keynes. "The visit was covered by local BBC and ITV television news and local radio with slots on bulletins all that day, as well as reports in the regional business media.

Philip went on to talk about how MK Business Leaders' strategy of developing overseas trade links is developing. In January 2017 a link was announced between Milton Keynes and Dubai and the UAE which is already generating potential business leads for MK companies. "This is part of an expanding strategy to assist MK businesses on a global scale post Brexit. We are very excited about the prospects."

# Business Voice

[mkbllp.co.uk](http://mkbllp.co.uk)

Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership Summer 2017 update



Mr Pan, Tim Cullen and Philip Smith

## Business Leaders has a new look

MK Business Leaders Partnership has refreshed its brand image with a confident new look that places the organisation and its members firmly at the centre of the city through its strong portrayal of leadership, influence and a dynamic, forward thinking attitude.

It was created by local Brand Specialists Yellow Yoyo and has been warmly received by MK BLP members. Amanda Wright, Yellow Yoyo's Creative Director, said: "We were delighted to be asked to rebrand an organisation so central to the Milton Keynes business community and were keen to ensure that it points with confidence and no apology, to its roots and purpose here in MK."

Philip Smith, chair of MK Business Leaders Partnership said: "We are very pleased with the result and thoroughly enjoyed the process. This strong new identity sets us up perfectly for Milton Keynes' on going success story. Great work Yellow Yoyo."

## Directors of Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership

**Dr Philip Smith MBE** Chair  
**Duncan Phillips** DP Leisure  
**Nicholas Mann** Interdirect  
**Dr Julie Mills** Milton Keynes College  
**Jan Flawn CBE** PJ Care  
**Jean Gowin** Jeanius Consulting  
**Julia Upton MBE**  
**Martin Banham-Hall** Heald Solicitors  
**Ruby Parmar** PwC  
**Simon deMaid** Howes Percival

## For your diary

### Breakfast Briefing

Brasserie, MK College, Bletchley  
July 11 Speaker: Gregory Epiphaniou, Univ of Beds: Cyber Crime

### Breakfast Briefing

Brasserie, MK College, Bletchley  
September 21 Speaker: Rob Smettem, Millbrook Proving Ground

### Quarterly Dinner

Holiday Inn, CMK  
October 5 Speaker: Patrick Verwer, MD London Midland Trains



Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership is an independent organisation, funded through member subscriptions, MKBLP works to identify and develop interests, specific to the business community in the City.

Registered office: Artemis House, 4 Bramley Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK1 1PT. Company number: 06682673

### Your contact details

Please remember to keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details, especially email address alterations. Please call 07411 146297 or email [gina.harper@mkbllp.co.uk](mailto:gina.harper@mkbllp.co.uk)

[mkbllp.co.uk](http://mkbllp.co.uk)

Using our skills and knowledge for the benefit of the Milton Keynes business community

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# Business Leaders mark MK50 in style



"Each year we aim to offer something different at MK BAA and for MK50 we did something really special," said MK BLP chair Philip Smith. 2017 saw more entries and more guests recognising the best of MK business in March. "MK50 was the theme and we welcomed original MK 'Pioneers' who designed, built and supported the city; Guest compere was Gail Emms MBE, champion badminton player and Milton Keynes resident; and we named former High Sheriff Francesca Skelton as recipient of the MKBAA Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the MK business community.

"For 2017 the Business of the Year, selected from winners by the judges led by Sir John Southby, was Marshall Amplification a global brand that has put Milton Keynes on the world music map while developing high tech products in its sector. Winners received a unique trophy containing a newspaper dated January 23, 1967 – the day MK was 'born'.

"With net proceeds going to our MK Community Foundation fund encouraging social enterprise and entrepreneurship, MK BAA 2017 was a fitting way for the business community to mark MK50. MK BAA, with the support and hard work of MK Business Leaders members now established as THE biggest business gathering in the region."

For pictures from the awards and news about MK BAA 2018 visit [mkbaa.co.uk](http://mkbaa.co.uk).

## Meet...Simon DeMaid

**Your company/organisation?** Howes Percival LLP

**Your role/title?** Partner and Head of the Milton Keynes office

**About you:**

I have been with Howes Percival LLP since joining as a trainee and I act for some high profile Milton Keynes companies and enjoy providing innovative solutions to their day-to-day employment problems. Outside work I love spending time with my young family and have a wide range of interests. In particular I am a big fan of music, food (and wine!), fitness and sport.

**Why is being a member of MK Business Leaders important?**

I believe businesses play a significant part in Milton Keynes' success on a regional, national and international level. MK BLP has a crucial role in contributing to and promoting the interests of the wider business community, and helping to drive the continued prosperity of the area.

**What do you bring to MK Business Leaders?**

As a trusted advisor I work closely with local businesses of various sizes and sectors, and have a good understanding of what challenges and

opportunities they face. With my own knowledge and expertise this enables me to positively represent local businesses and their interests for the benefit of our members, the wider business environment, and the community at large here in Milton Keynes.

**What challenges face the Milton Keynes business community?**

The second phase of Milton Keynes' expansion is now underway and to continue its ambitious growth plans it will have to compete economically and culturally with other cities. An area I am following closely is the East-West Growth Corridor which will hopefully ease infrastructure problems and provide countless business opportunities for all types of companies in the community. Other key challenges that as an employment law specialist I am very familiar with and which will affect all businesses, are the impending General Data Protection Regulations and the Apprenticeship Levy.

**What makes Milton Keynes special for you?**

When outsiders talk about Milton Keynes they mention two things - 'concrete cows and roundabouts' and I take great pleasure in correcting them. Milton Keynes is truly unique and has



been on an incredible journey since it was created back in 1967, continuing to flourish and grow ever since. Today it is one of the UK's leading economic hotspots, has a thriving business community which I am very proud to be part of, and exciting times ahead!

**Your tip for success in business and/or life?**

Never underestimate the value of education and the opportunity to learn new skills. Work hard, embrace change and be positive in everything you do. New doors open all of the time if you let them. Carpe diem.

## Breakfast Briefings are no dogs breakfast

Marc Lough, national account manager for Cityfibre brought MK Business Leaders up to speed on plans to connect MK with future proof pure fibre and create a Gigabit city.

CityFibre has acquired 162 km of another company's stalled fibre project in Milton Keynes he told a Breakfast Briefing in June. It plans to connect homes and businesses close to it and the aim is, within 12 years they will be 'at the front door' of every home and business in cities they operate in.

Pure fibre can handle demands for the next 20 years and beyond and the UK, while moving away from legacy copper and aluminium carriers is not keeping up with other countries. Average UK broadband speed is just 15 Mb per second and our digital infrastructure ranks below Estonia, Bulgaria and Greece.

Marc said Milton Keynes has the ambitions for European Capital of Culture, a new economic strategy and to improve education and skills, but MK is the third worst UK city for broadband coverage. CityFibre is engaging with

Milton Keynes Council and through round table events is listening to businesses put the case for faster and more reliable connectivity.

In March Jenifer Cameron, CEO of Action4Youth told MK Business Leaders about its Inspiration Programme. Action4Youth runs youth clubs, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and National Citizenship Service programmes in MK and Bucks, and outdoor activity centres in Cumbria and Milton Keynes. The Inspiration Programme will see young people get accredited skills in leadership, team building and communication. "We want business involved and young people meeting and engaging with real entrepreneurs who can inspire them," Jenifer said.

In February members and guests were joined by Simba the Labrador and his owner Carolyn Gatenby who talked about having life-threatening type 1 diabetes and a life-saving canine companion. Medical Detection Dogs, the Great Horwood-based charity known for dogs trained to detect some cancers also has Medical Alert Assistance Dogs like Simba, sensing



Dan Howard OBE and Carolyn Gatenby with Simba the Labrador

changes in their human partner and warning them of impending medical emergencies.

Dan Howard OBE, Chief Operating Officer of MDD said his business plan is to reduce the waiting list for dogs, raise awareness of MDD, and continue scientific research demonstrating the value of their dogs.



Dr Julie Mills, MKBLP Director and David Sheepshanks CBE

David Sheepshanks CBE, the chair of UK Community Foundations and former chairman of The Football League and Ipswich Town FC explained how community foundations and philanthropy can change communities for the better at a well-attended MK Business Leaders Dinner in May.

David asked guests, including Milton Keynes Community Foundation (MKCF) Chief Executive Ian Revell, to imagine the country without community foundations and their £70 million in grants across last year. "Their role cannot be overstated, to understand local needs and put something back into local communities," he said.

David praised MK Business Leaders' MKCF fund, encouraging entrepreneurship and social enterprise generated by net profits from MK BAA. He said philanthropy should be encouraged but while the wealth of today's uber-rich grows so

## Soccer chief's giving goal, and a culture shock for some

does inequality, he warned. He said: "It is down to us to encourage voluntary giving by engaging local business leaders, sharing stories of generosity in money and time and investing in the young by sharing ownership and showing leadership."

In March cultural strategy guru John Knell did not mince his words when he discussed MK's bid to become a European Capital of Culture 2023.

John admitted that speaking at the dinner, attended by local arts and creative figures, was like entering the lion's den, but he was there as 'a critical friend'. He said MK's cultural brand personality is fine "as it goes" and while a thriving economic hub, the city is not yet a thriving cultural hub. John had some groaning with comments on MK Theatre and the IF:MK adding: "You cannot put lipstick on a cow, even a concrete one, and expect people to not notice that it is still a cow!"

John said that to be successful the MK 2023 bid process must include brutally honest conversations between stakeholders, put culture at the centre of decision making and recognise that culture is now a part of all successful places, adding that he looked forward to visiting in 2023.