

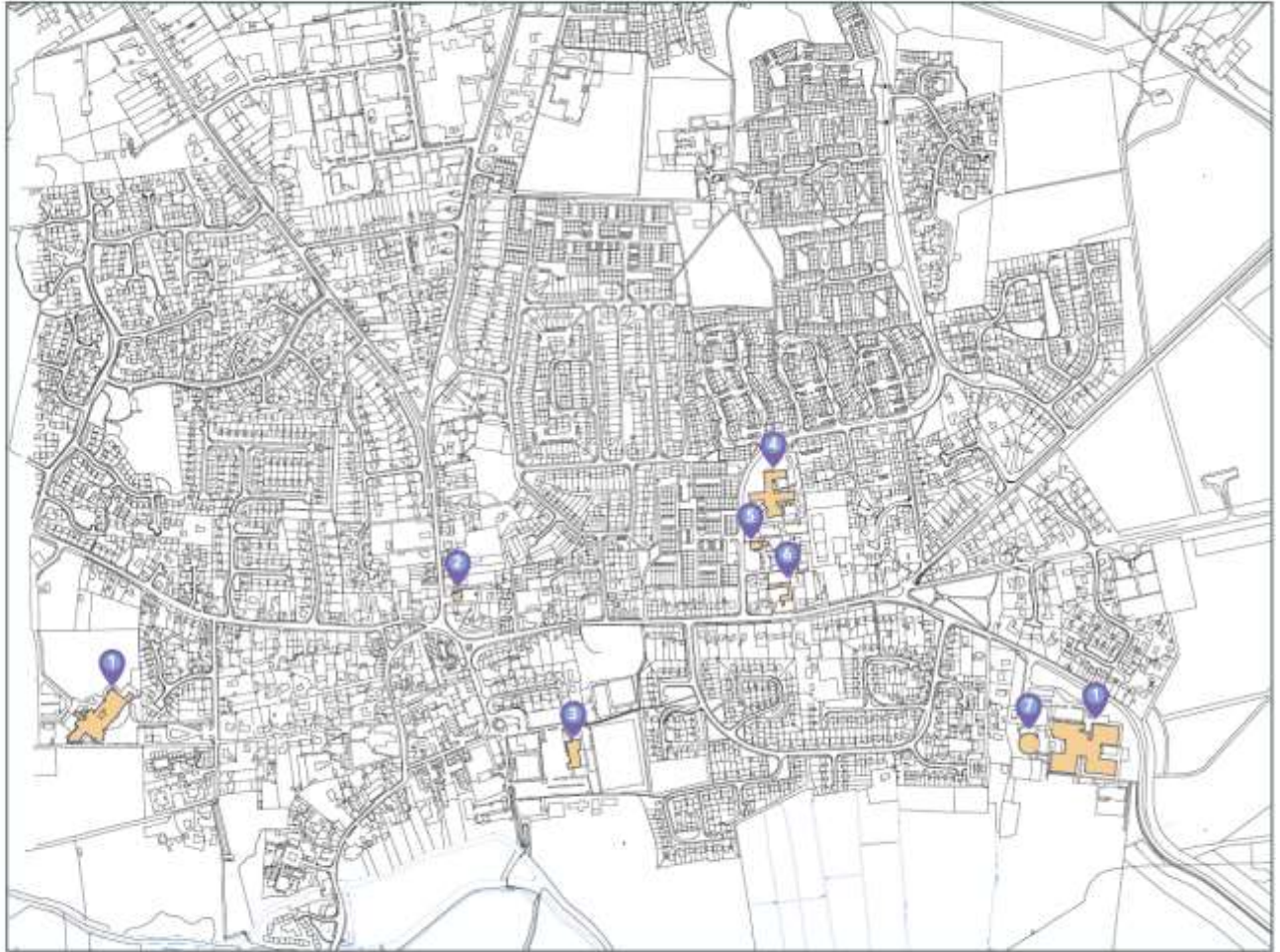
Mildenhall Hub

Wouldn't life be simpler if you could visit public services and leisure facilities in the same place instead of travelling around Mildenhall? For instance, having a medical check up or dropping off a child at school and, at the same time, being able to borrow a book to read, find out what's going on locally and keep up your fitness levels with a quick swim or a fitness class?

And whether you work in a health centre, council office, school, police station, library or swimming pool you'll need space to do your work, as well as telephones, computers, maybe public areas with reception desks, somewhere to have a break and pop to the loo. All these facilities are paid for by taxpayers and are currently duplicated across Mildenhall in separate, ageing buildings that will soon need to be replaced or require millions of pounds of investment just to keep them going.

The Mildenhall Hub, a concept which already has Government backing, has a different vision of the future when it comes to providing public, and voluntary, services – bringing everything together with shared facilities to cut costs and transform the delivery of public services in Mildenhall by creating a single Hub (the Government calls it the 'One Public Estate'). A Hub which is flexible enough to meet the needs of the area, whatever the future holds, and provides the services that local people deserve, including inspirational places for our young people to learn.

Located on just one site, instead of the eight shown on the map below, the Mildenhall Hub would have space for education, health, leisure and council services, the CAB, Job Centre, voluntary sector groups, a library, police and fire services as well as the potential for other complementary facilities, for example spaces for potential entrepreneurs to develop their ideas.



Key: 1) Mildenhall College Academy (2 sites – Sheldrick Way and Bury Road) 2) Fire Station 3) Swimming Pool 4) Council Offices 5) Library 6) Police Station 7) Dome Leisure Centre

For the partners involved it's simple common sense. The partnership's preferred option is a single site at Sheldrick Way (site 1 on the map above) providing a single point of access to a range of services. Around a shared public facility (with new council offices, a library, health centre and pre-school) would be various specialist buildings, such as Mildenhall College Academy's facilities, a new leisure centre and a fire station. The leisure centre would provide a larger swimming pool, fitness suite and sports hall, along with a new learner pool, studio spaces and an artificial pitch, alongside new grass pitches, all shared with the school. In the future, there would be room on the campus to accommodate any new primary school which the town needs.

Sheldrick Way was selected as the preferred location to explore for the Hub after an extensive evaluation of the available sites in 2014 – it was the only site close to the town centre which was large enough (now and for the future), and it is already the home of Mildenhall College Academy's Sixth Form.

Now, through the Local Planning Authority's consultation on a development brief, the partnership wants to hear views on how a Hub could be delivered at Sheldrick Way. The partners recognise that developing the Hub will not be without its challenges, and will have an impact on local residents. The

Development Brief therefore looks at the issues which will need to be addressed and the opportunities, both within the immediate locality and wider area.

You can read more about the work to date on the Hub project at its website: www.mildenhallhub.info.

Summary of potential benefits of a hub:

- radically improve the quality of facilities, particularly those for post-11 education
- reduce the equivalent built elements of the existing public estate by around 5000 m² (square metres) or 20%, even allowing for an increase in the current range of facilities
- include over 3000m² of shared internal space and shared meeting spaces;
- reduce the running costs of the public estate by over 50% (or £20 million) over 25 years
- relocate services from eight sites down to one easily accessible location for customers, close to the town centre
- provide scope for public services to expand in the future, if demand for them grows (including flexibility to deal with any scenario for the future of RAF Mildenhall)
- release more than five existing public sector sites for housing, retail, employment or other community uses, one in a prime town centre location and another close to the A11
- provide a flexible environment for virtually any model of service delivery in the future, with strong community ownership
- house a shared 'Hub Host' team in a single shared reception area who can deal with all first contacts with visitors; and
- integrate ICT systems.