

Education and Employment

1.1 Education and Employment

Policy Context

Luton's Community Plan 2002-2012

The Plan aims to involve local people in promoting the strategic vision for the town and identifying local needs and priorities. It also aims to assist in co-ordinating services provided by public, voluntary and community sectors, local communities and private organisations and helps to ensure that the local organisation work together to meet the needs of the local community.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

A thriving business sector through lifelong learning and reduction on unemployment;
Focus on citizenship and cultural integration in employment;
To have no long term unemployment;
To be self-sufficient in jobs;
To have a well-trained workforce able to fill jobs locally and receive higher salaries; and
To have employment levels above the East of England average.

Luton Local Plan (Second Deposit Draft)

The Local Plan is to guide development and the use of land. It contains policies and proposals for land use, transportation and employment. The employment part of the Local Plan only deals with industrial, warehousing and office land uses. However, it is important to bear in mind that other uses have significant influence upon the local economy through making a wide range of employment opportunities available.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- Reduce levels of unemployment by retaining, strengthening and adding to employment opportunities.

Community Plan for the Borough of Bedford 2004-2010

The production of this, the second Community Plan for the Borough of Bedford, has been co-ordinated by the Bedford Partnership Board, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough. The over-arching aim is "*Working Together to Improve Health and Well-Being*" and the objective is to lay the foundation stone for an improved quality of life for everyone who lives, works or visits the Borough.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Encourage Bedford's business community to reinvest and expand its workforce.
To encourage companies to locate their business in the Borough of Bedford creating jobs for local people.
To ensure the labour force is of an appropriate size and skill to encourage investment and the participation in employment.
Provide lifelong learning opportunities for all skill levels that will lead to employment.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS14) of the East of England (Draft Revision)

Bedford now lies within the East of England region for planning purposes. RSS14 is based on the principles of the UK's Strategy for Sustainable Development and sets out a strategy to guide

planning and development in the East of England to the year 2021. It aims to improve the quality of life and sets out proposals which will influence where people choose to work and live and how to move about the region. The final RSS14 is due to be published in late 2006.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Increase employment growth to meet identified employment needs and achieve a more sustainable balance between workers and jobs.

Bedford Borough Council Local Plan

The Bedford Local Plan was adopted in 2002 and sets out policies and proposals to encourage development to occur in suitable forms and locations with the aim of improving the quality, convenience and sustainability of the environment. The Local Development Framework process will gradually replace the Local Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for Bedford.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Maintain and enhance economic and social well-being in the Borough.
The Plan identifies approximately 80 hectares of additional employment land (Classes B1, B2 & B8) to encourage local economic growth and provide for a range and variety of sites for economic development.
Promote equal opportunities.
Meet the needs of the Borough's residents.

Bedford Borough Council LDF Core Strategy and Rural Issues Paper Sustainability Appraisal

The Local Development Framework is a series of documents which will gradually replace the Local Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for Bedford. These will set out the Council's policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims for the future where they affect the development and use of land. Preparation of the Local Development Framework will be a continual process with new documents being prepared at different stages to ensure that they are up-to-date.

The Core Strategy will set out the long term vision and overarching policies for the Borough. Consultation is taking place in connection with preparing the 'Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan'. The 'Options Paper' is out for consultation until 14 October 2005.

In order to ensure that the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan contributes to the aims of sustainable development, the Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of its policies and proposals. This document underwent consultation in parallel with the Policies Options paper.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Foster employment growth with an emphasis on the high knowledge based sector as a prerequisite to strengthening the housing market and a better balance between homes and jobs.
Provide for 11,400 jobs in the Borough in the period 2001-2021.
Protect and maintain employment sites identified as being of importance.
Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills and potential.

South Bedfordshire District Council Community Strategy

The Community Plan details the Partnership's vision for 2011. In terms of minerals the plan recognises that:

- Developments pressure will create need for use of more raw materials/natural resources for new builds. This will increase the need to excavate for minerals.
- Local authorities should plan for the provision of new employment associated with new housing

growth.

- Local authorities should plan for the provision of restoration to provide recreation (e.g. climbing, water sports), green spaces or wildlife habitats.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- **Strengthening the economy-** Successful businesses providing sufficient jobs of a range, quality and income for all local people seeking work and excellent transport, cultural, social and other support services that add to the area's attractiveness. Economic and social progress that can be sustained and shared with future generations.
- **Developing opportunities and skills-** To develop an inclusive community of learning, helping those who live work and study in the area to fulfil their potential through flexible and responsive learning opportunities throughout their life.

Mid-Bedfordshire Council Community Strategy

The Community Plan details the Partnership's vision for 2011. This vision is: *By the end of this decade we would like to see a safer, healthier and more prosperous area than the one we live in today. The Community Plan is accompanied by an action plan which sets out what will be done, by whom and by when, to address the key issues that have been highlighted in each of the topics. it sets out 9 elements to the vision including*

In terms of mineral development the plan recognises that this may create employment opportunities but that there are skills shortages in Mid-Beds. Other references to minerals development is regards the Marston Vale, still a major centre for the brick making industry and with a legacy of worked out clay pits that provide important recreational and wildlife opportunities.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- A Mid Bedfordshire which continues to enjoy near full employment and where suitable and rewarding employment is available for local people
- By 2011 Mid Bedfordshire will be a "Community of Learning" which promotes the idea of lifelong learning and recognises that learning is important to us as a community. It will be a community which acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of individuals as lifelong learners and where high quality learning opportunities and standards of achievement for all are maximised

Baseline Review

- 1.1.1 For the purposes of the baseline data collection, information has been collected for South Bedfordshire, Mid Bedfordshire, Bedford and Luton and is then summarised at the County level. The baseline for education is also presented under this topic paper.

Bedfordshire

- 1.1.2 In relation to economic activity¹ the population age range is taken as 16-74. For Bedfordshire as a county this comprises approximately 72% of the total resident population. The topic of economically active has been sub-divided into: full-time employment, part-time employment, self employed, unemployed and full-time student. Of the economically active population in Bedfordshire 46.14% is in full-time employment, this is higher than the

▪ ¹ All people who were working in the week before the Census are described as economically active. In addition, the category includes people who were classified as unemployed. Full-time students who are economically active are included but are identified separately in the classification. The economic activity questions are only asked of people aged 16 to 74

percentage for the East of England region (42.61%) and for England and Wales (40.55%). Of the percentage of the economically active population that is in part-time employment (11.96%) in Bedfordshire 88.72% are female with the remaining 11.28% being male. The percentage of self employed for Bedfordshire (9.04%) is lower than that for East of England (9.25%) but is higher than the percentage for England and Wales (8.28%). Mid Bedfordshire has a high percentage of self-employed (10.50%) in comparison to South Bedfordshire and Bedford.

- 1.1.3 Bedfordshire has a lower percentage of unemployed (2.53%) in comparison with the rate of for England and Wales (3.35%). Regionally the percentage rate of unemployment is 2.6%. Of the 2.53% unemployed in Bedfordshire, 21.04% are aged over 50 and 25% are classified as long-term unemployed.
- 1.1.4 In relation to the industry of employment a very low percentage (0.23%) of the economically active population of Bedfordshire work in the mineral and quarrying sector, but this is approximately equal to the level of employment in the sector at the regional level as well as for England and Wales. This equates to 437 people, of this 61% are male and 39% are female. However, the Stewartby Brickworks is an additional centre of employment and employs an estimated 230 people (http://www.bbc.co.uk/legacies/work/england/beds_herts_bucks/article_1.shtml) which is not included within the numbers for the mining and quarrying sector. The unitary authority of Bedford has the highest percentage of the population working in the sector, 0.37%.
- 1.1.5 Information from the Office of National Statistics regarding the number of people employed in Mineral Extraction within Bedfordshire and the East of England Region is provided below for the period 1999 to 2004. This indicates that there has been a general decline in the number of people employed in the sector within both Bedfordshire and the Region as a whole.

Number of people employed in minerals extraction in Bedfordshire					
Year	Sands and Gravel	Chalk	Clay and Shale	Ore and other	Total
2004	67	11	8	10	96
2003	73	12	8	2	95
2002	74	12	8	2	96
2001	69	49	8	3	129
2000	92	43	9	14	158
1999	80	31	18	23	134
Number of people employed in minerals extraction in East of England					
Year	Sands and Gravel	Chalk	Clay and Shale	Ore and other	Total
2004	789	57	70	118	1034
2003	1229	63	64	128	1484
2002	1237	69	71	120	1497

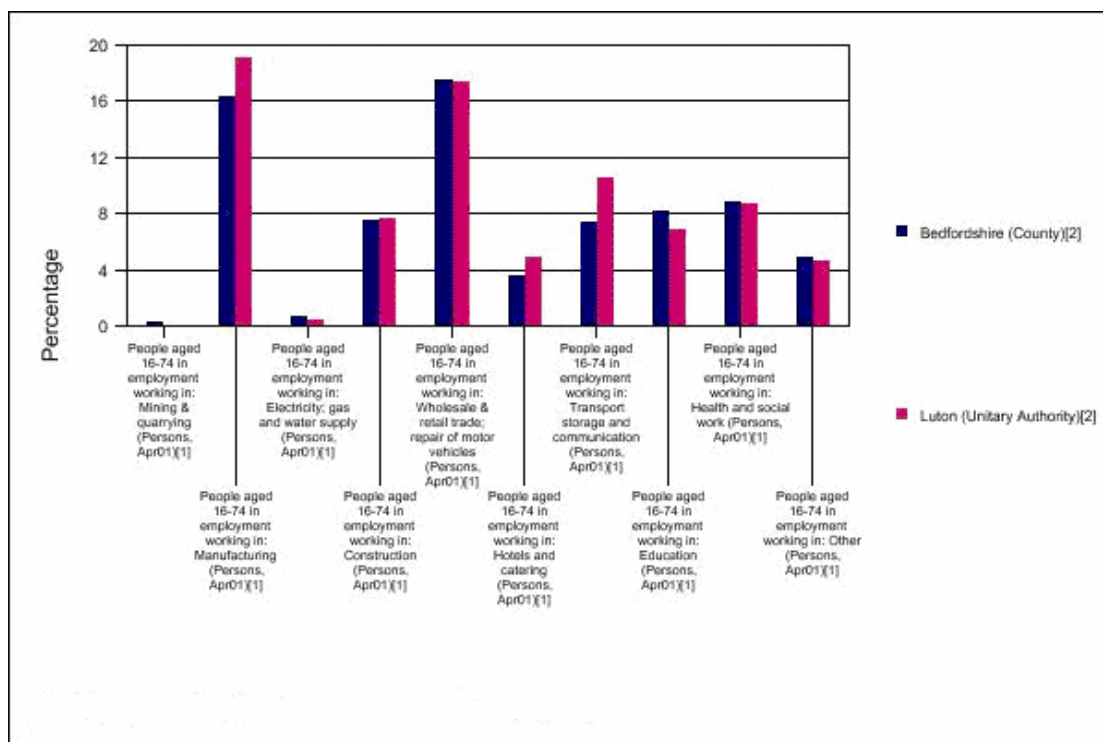
2001	907	107	47	125	1186
2000	1074	96	57	143	1370
Figures for 1999 are not provided as the regional boundaries were different for this year					

- 1.1.6 Of the population aged between 16 and 74 in Bedfordshire, 24.98% have no qualifications and 19.87% have a level 4/5², which is approximately equal to the percentage for England and Wales (19.76%). Compared with the East of England region the percentage of the population that has no qualifications is lower than the regional percentage (27.94%) and lower than the percentage for England and Wales (29.08%). Of the unitary authorities South Bedfordshire has the highest percentage (26.18%) of population with no qualifications. In relation to level 4/5 qualifications the regional percentage is lower (18.14%) than the percentage for Bedfordshire. The unitary authority of Bedford has the highest percentage (21.77%) of population with qualifications to level 4/5.
- 1.1.7 Restoration of sites previously used within the minerals extraction industry offers the opportunity for the provision of recreation and educational facilities. A number of these sites already exist within Bedfordshire. However, data on the detailed use of these sites as educational facilities has not been obtained.

Luton

- 1.1.8 For Luton the percentage of the economically active population that is full-time employment is 42.53%. Of the percentage of the economically active population that is in part-time employment (10.36%) in Luton 84.82% are female with the remaining 15.18% being male. The percentage of self employed for Luton (6.69%) is lower than that for East of England and for England and Wales (8.28%).
- 1.1.9 Luton has the highest percentage rate of unemployment (3.85%) in relation to the rate for the East of England region and England and Wales. Of the 3.85% of unemployed in Luton 21.04% were aged over 50 and 28.34% are classified as long-term unemployed.
- 1.1.10 In relation to the mining and quarrying industry a very low percentage (0.05%) of the economically active population is employed in this sector. This equates to 39 people, of this 56% are male and 44% are female.
- 1.1.11 Of the population aged between 16 and 74 in Luton, 31.30% have no qualifications and 15.03% have a level 4/5. Compared with the East of England region the percentage of the population that has no qualifications is higher than the regional percentage (27.94%) and higher than the percentage for England and Wales (29.08%).

▪ ² First Degree, higher Degree, NVQ 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified medical doctor, qualified dentist, qualified nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor



<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

Sources of data

- Bedfordshire County Council – www.bedfordshire.gov.uk (accessed 26th August 2005)
- Office for National Statistics, Neighbourhood Statistics – www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk (accessed 30th August 2005).
- Office for National Statistics: Mineral Extraction in Great Britain (Business Monitor PA1007) www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=606&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=224

Trends

- The percentage of employment in the mining and quarrying sector is very low (0.23%) in comparison to other industry sectors in Bedfordshire and Luton, however it is equal to the percentage employed in the sector for England and Wales.
- In general the number of people employed in minerals sector has declined over recent years since 1999.

Data Gaps

- The data is based on the 2001 census.
- Data on the detailed use of restored sites as educational facilities.

Issues

- 1.1.12 The trends indicate that a very small proportion of the economically active population is employed in the mining and quarrying sector.

Implications for minerals planning and SA in Bedfordshire

Key issues arising from the policy context:

How the Minerals Local Development Framework should address education and employment:

The plan does not have any direct links to provision of education and employment but if possible the MLDF should contribute to sustainable employment growth in the minerals sector.

Relevant objectives for the SA:

- The MLDF should contribute to employment growth in the minerals sector to meet identified employment needs and achieve a more sustainable balance between workers and jobs.
- The MLDF should support opportunities to increase vocational training
- The MLDF should seek to contribute to the reduction of unemployment locally through training local people to respond to development needs within the region.

Key issues arising from the baseline review:

- Luton has the highest percentage of unemployment with the greater percentage indicated as long-term unemployed.
- The percentage of employment in the mining and quarrying sector is very low (0.23%) in comparison to other industry sectors in Bedfordshire and Luton, however it is equal to the percentage employed in the sector for England and Wales.
- The Stewartby Brickworks is an additional centre of employment and employs an estimated further 230 which is not included within the numbers for the mining and quarrying sector. It is likely that the Brickworks industry will expand within the county in the future.
- Restoration of sites previously used within the minerals extraction industry offers the opportunity for the provision of recreation and educational facilities.

Key issues arising from the scoping consultation

Are these the key sustainability issues under this topic area? or are there others?

- Local employment must continue to be a major priority for the sub-region and the strategy must support and protect local jobs

- Employment is a key sustainability issue – the question is how to encourage society to employ more people rather than machines using fossil fuels
- Need to recognise employment benefits of nature conservation after uses.

What are the main implications of these issues for minerals and waste planning?

- None suggested

What sustainability objectives do you think should be set for each of these topic areas?

- Assisting local workforces to get to jobs, e.g. from Luton by providing a shuttle service.