

Population and Social Inclusion

1.1 Population and Social Inclusion

Policy Context

Arhus Convention

The Århus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (citizens and their associations) with regard to the environment. Public authorities (at national, regional or local level) are to contribute to allowing these rights to become effective. The Convention provides for:

The right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities. This can include information on the state of the environment, but also on policies or measures taken, or on the state of human health and safety where this can be affected by the state of the environment. Public authorities are obliged, under the Convention, to actively disseminate environmental information in their possession;

The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision-making. Arrangements are to be made by public authorities to enable citizens and environmental organisations to comment on, for example, proposals for projects affecting the environment, or plans and programmes relating to the environment;

The right to challenge, in a court of law, public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The Convention creates obligations in three fields or 'pillars':

Public access to environmental information;

Public participation in decision-making on matters related to the environment; and

Access to justice (i.e. administrative or judicial review proceedings) in environmental matters.

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

Bedfordshire 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. This includes the scale and distribution of provision for new housing and identifying priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, minerals and waste management. 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. RSS14 is currently under review – the final RSS14 is due to be published in early summer 2007.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- conserve and enhance the natural, historic and built environment by positive management. integrate protection and enhancement of nationally and internationally designated areas, whilst meeting the social and economic needs of local communities
- protect all important aspects of the countryside.
- conserve and enhance regional and local distinctiveness and variety.
- secure effective protection of the environment by considering the nature and location of proposed development
- restore damaged and lost environmental features whenever possible

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 organisations work together to meet the needs of the local community.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

To create a dynamic and creative town;
Encourage sport, culture, leisure, arts and non-vocational learning to give people opportunities;
Focus on citizenship and cultural integration in education and employment;
Vocational lifelong learning;
Education that focuses on responsibility, understanding and appreciation;
Reduce crime and the fear of crime, through, tackling anti-social behavior, education, community cohesion, community pride and cultural understanding; and
Improve the quality of life through improved quality of housing and street scene.

Designing for Sustainability – Luton Borough Council Supplementary Planning Guidance

This document sets out what the Borough Council expects in terms of sustainable design and energy conservation.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Create and locate so people can easily get to facilities such as health, shops, social, recreation, religious and community.
Ensure buildings are accessible to people with mobility difficulties, provide safe walking and cycling facilities.

Luton Local Plan (2001 - 2011)

The Local Plan is to guide development and the use of land. It contains policies and proposals for land use and transportation. The only leisure and recreation policies that may be directly relevant to waste planning are:
LC1: Protection and Preservation of Green Spaces; and
LC3: Protection of Community Facilities.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Create adequate and appropriate provision for sport, leisure community development and green space to meet local needs.

South Bedfordshire District Council Community Strategy

The plan has split the community vision into 9 topics: Community safety, Housing and building communities, Improving the environment, Improving health, Strengthening the economy, Developing opportunities and skills, Promoting leisure, Creating better transport and Including everyone.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The Community Plan supports public consultation to ‘involve everyone’: The waste planning process should provide appropriate, accessible and well advertised consultation events, democratic processes and evaluation activities so that all residents can have a say on local issues

Mid-Bedfordshire Council Community Strategy

The plan has split the community vision into 9 topics: Community safety, Housing and building communities, Improving the environment Improving health, Promoting leisure, Strengthening the economy, Developing opportunities and skills, Creating better transport and Including everyone-

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Including everyone- A Mid-Bedfordshire which is free from discrimination, which values the differences within our community and the contribution we can all make.

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

Reduce crime;
 Increase community confidence;
 Tackle anti-social behaviour;
 Provide sustainable sports, arts, heritage, parks and recreational facilities & activities; and
 Remove barriers to access & participation to all leisure & cultural services.

Baseline Review

- 1.1.1 This section addresses the baseline population and social exclusion/community issues in Bedfordshire and Luton. The next section of the topic paper outlines how these issues specifically relate to waste management.
- 1.1.2 For the purposes of the baseline data on population, information has been collected for South Bedfordshire, Mid Bedfordshire, Bedford and Luton and is summarised at the county level. It is important to distinguish between the different areas as they have differing demographic profiles.
- 1.1.3 Social inclusion is about reducing inequalities between the least advantaged groups and communities and the rest of society by closing the opportunity gap and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most. The most common indicators relating to social inclusion are the indices of multiple deprivation which combine information relating to income, employment, education, health, skills and training, barriers to housing and services and crime to produce an overall measure of deprivation.

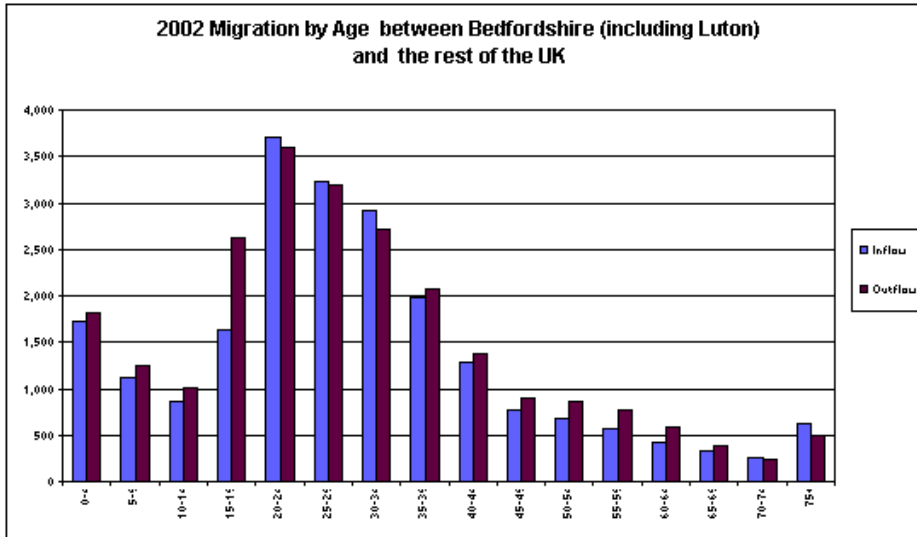
Bedfordshire

- 1.1.4 The resident population of Bedfordshire is recorded as 381, 572¹ with the highest population recorded for Bedford. The total resident population for the county comprises 7% of the total population for the region of East of England. Of the resident population 49.5% are male and 50.5% are female, this corresponds with the average for England and Wales. The percentage change in population for the county since 1991 is recorded as 7.21%.

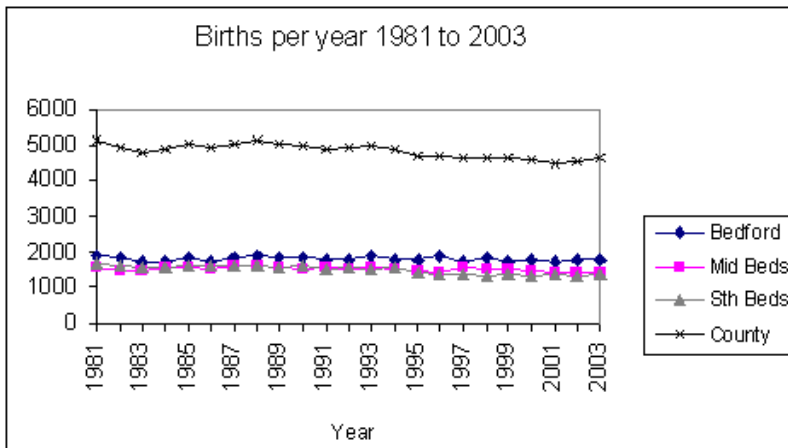
▪ ¹ 2001 Census

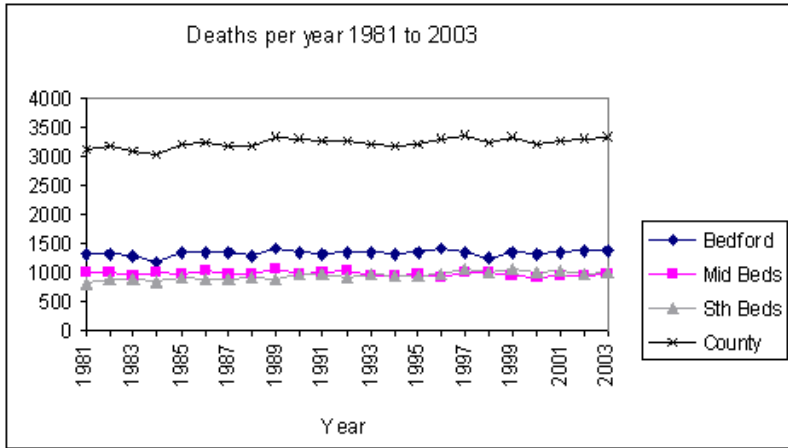
Bedford shows the greatest increase in population with a percentage change of 9.21% with South Bedfordshire recording a percentage change of 3%. The percentage change recorded for the East of England region is 5.22%, so Bedfordshire is exceeding the average rate of growth for the region. The East of England region is a region of population growth, as the percentage change for England and Wales is recorded as 2.55%. The density of the population is 3.20 people/hectare.

- 1.1.5 According to a study undertaken by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council (2006), the population of Bedfordshire is expected to continue to grow by about 6% over the next decade reaching a total of 605,900 in 2011 (3790 a year) and then 649,000 by 2021 (a further 4300 per year), as planned increases in housing developments take place. The area's population will grow at a faster rate than England and Wales as a whole.
- 1.1.6 The age structure for the county indicates that the mean age of the population is 37.76 years, with the greatest percentage of the resident population falling within the 30-44 age category, the next age category with the next highest percentage is 45-59. The average age for the region of East of England is 39.12 years. Of the total resident population in Bedfordshire, 72% are considered to be of working age (16-74 years) which equates to the percentage for the region.
- 1.1.7 The migration of population can be a significant factor in the growth of an area. In 2001 4.71% of the population of Bedfordshire had migrated into the county (4.16% from other areas of the UK) and out migration was indicated as 4.03%. Therefore there is a net increase in population in the county as a result of migration. Figure 1 indicates that the greatest loss of population through migration in 2002 occurred in the 14-19 age category. This is considered to correlate with students leaving to study at Universities outside of the county. In general, the East of England region has a higher net increase of population, 0.88%, compared with Bedfordshire, but there is a smaller percentage of people moving in and out of the region as a whole.
- 1.1.8 The study undertaken by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council (2006) estimates that from 2005 to 2021 a net in-migration is forecast. This is the balance of significant net out-flows from Luton, where the level of house-building possible is well short of household formation, and significant net in-flows to Bedfordshire. In addition there has been some evidence of recent increases in in-migration of East Europeans from the new EU countries into Bedfordshire and Luton which may not be included in the Office of National Statistics estimates. National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) data shows that the Bedfordshire and Luton area continues to experience net inflows of young adults (20 – 29s) while losing 'middle-aged' adults and children. The area also continues to gain older adults (those aged 75 or over).



1.1.9 The birth rate for the county has been relatively stable since 1991, with the General Fertility Rate (number of live births per 1000 women aged between 15-44) for 2002 recorded as 57.9. This is lower than the regional rate of 58.1 but higher than the rate for England and Wales at 56.9. The death rate has also stayed relatively constant since 1991. The birth rate is higher than the death rate leading to a net increase in population.





1.1.10 According to the 2004 deprivation data, the county of Bedfordshire suffers from pockets of deprivation with wide variations between wards. Bedford has a relatively low multiple deprivation index (IMD) and is ranked² as 167. This is inconsistent with that stated for Luton In relation to income the area is ranked lower at 112, and for employment it is ranked as 131. The District authorities of Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire are relatively highly ranked at 334 and 253 respectively. In relation to income and employment these are ranked lower but are still relatively high in relation to other local authorities. The scattered nature of the rural deprivation creates issues in terms of identifying and targeting disadvantaged communities.

1.1.11 Crime statistics for Bedfordshire and Luton indicate that the most common crimes committed relate to burglary, criminal damage, vehicle and other theft and violence against a person, with the highest rate being in vehicle and other theft. The total number of offences recorded (all crime types) in Bedfordshire (including Luton) between January and March 2006 14,413, which equates to 25 offences per 1000 of the population. For England and Wales the number of offences per 1000 of the population for the same period was 24.9. Therefore Bedfordshire has a similar crime rate than England and Wales. Within Bedfordshire, Luton has the highest crime rate with the total number of offences recorded as 6,530 equating to 35.5 offences per 1000 of the population. This rate is higher than the rate for England and Wales. Within Bedfordshire, Bedford has the highest rate (24.3 offences per 1000 of the population), followed by South Bedfordshire (23.3 offences per 1000 of the population) and Mid Bedfordshire (12.3 offences per 1000 of the population). It should be noted that when considering crime statistics that not all crime is reported.

1.1.12 In relation to households, the average number of people residing in a household in Bedfordshire is 2.4, which equates to the average for England and Wales and the region. Luton has a slightly higher average at 2.6. There is a high percentage of owner occupiers

² A score is calculated for each area; a low score indicates greater deprivation - the most deprived Lower Layer Super Output Area or Local Authority is indicated by a rank of 1. The highest ranked Local Authority is 354.

within Bedfordshire county, 75.58 %, this is higher than the percentage for both East of England (72.20%) and England and Wales (68.22%). Luton has the lowest percentage (70.28%) of owner occupiers, and as a result has the highest percentage of renters. Of people renting 16.43% are renting from the Council or Housing Associations/RSL. The percentage for East of England is 16.25% which is significantly lower than the percentage for England and Wales, which is 19.19%. The split between renting from the Council and Housing Associations/RSL differs greatly between the different unitary authorities. South Bedfordshire and Luton have a much higher percentage of people renting from the Council compared to Bedford and Mid Bedfordshire who have a higher percentage renting from Housing Association/RSL.

Luton

- 1.1.13 The population of Luton is recorded as 184,371¹ which comprises 3.42% of the total resident population for the region of East of England. Of the resident population 50% are male and 50% are female. The percentage change in the population for Luton since 1991 is recorded as 6.17%, which is higher than the regional rate of growth. The density of the population is 42.53 people/hectare which reflects the urban character of the authority. According to a study undertaken by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council (2006), Luton's population is forecast to increase up to 2011 and then to decline to 2021. In contrast, Bedfordshire's population will grow significantly through to 2021.
- 1.1.14 The age structure for Luton indicates that the mean age of the population is 34.92 years, which is younger than the average for the region. There is a higher percentage of 20-24 year olds and lower percentage of 45-59 years olds in comparison to Bedfordshire and the East of England region, which is considered to be the reason for the lower average age. The percentage of the working population is also lower at 71.4%, in comparison to that for the region.
- 1.1.15 In 2001, 4.13% of the population of Luton had migrated into the area, 3.28% from other areas of the UK, and out migration was indicated as 4.03%. Therefore there is a net increase in population as a result of migration (0.75%), which is higher than that for Bedfordshire. Luton has the lowest ranking IMD at 101, 69 for income and 82 for employment.

Issues associated with Waste Management

- 1.1.16 Municipal waste arisings particularly are linked to where most people live. Given that the proximity principle requires waste to be treated as close to its point of origin as possible, the location of existing and future centres of population is critical when planning for future waste management facilities. This consideration of future centres of population is further strengthened by PPS 10 which states that waste management should be considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as transport, housing, economic growth, natural resources and regeneration, recognising the positive contribution that waste management can make to the development of sustainable communities.

- 1.1.17 In terms of population change to the south of the county, Luton Dunstable and Houghton Regis, together with Leighton Linnsade, represent the main focus of the population in South Bedfordshire. Proposals to provide 26,300 new dwellings and associated population in these urban areas, including that adjacent to Luton Borough, further increases the importance of these settlements and the volumes of municipal waste arisings.
- 1.1.18 A similar situation exists in the north of the county where Bedford/Kempston conurbation is the major urban centre which there is likely to be the main centre of municipal waste arisings. The proposed addition of 19,500 additional dwellings and associated population to 2021 as part of a planned regional growth strategy is likely to further increase the importance of Bedford as a regional centre and consequently the amount of municipal waste arisings that will need to be effectively managed.
- 1.1.19 Under the proximity principle new waste management facilities should be located as close as possible to the principal areas of municipal waste arisings. If based entirely on the existing pattern of population and projected population growth, that would result from major housing development proposed at a regional level, it is likely that new Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMFs) would need to be provided in the north and south of Bedfordshire that are sufficiently close to Bedford/Kempston/Marston Vale and Dunstable/Houghton Regis and Leighton Linnsade.

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Trends

- The population of Bedfordshire has increased between 1991 and 2001 by 7.21% which is greater than the regional increase.
- The population of Luton has increased between 1991 and 2001 by 6.17%, which is greater than the regional increase.
- Birth and death rates have remained relatively static since 1991.
- There is a net increase in population for Bedfordshire and Luton as a result of migration which is likely to increase even further with the Government’s growth strategy.

Scoping Consultation

Key Issues and Implications for Waste Planning

- Population diversity can impact on success of such initiatives as waste diversion and recycling (e.g. there are over 80 languages in regular use in Luton. Any information raising and education on waste issues needs to bear this in mind. This is not a direct issue for the plan to bear in mind as it does not have direct influence over waste awareness issues.
- There is considerable scope for increased education about household waste, the implications of choices and how key personal choice is on the relative local impacts and those further afield. Can the plan publicise this?
- The plan needs to consider the impacts of population increases in the south of county and these need to be monitored.

Comments on the Objectives for the SA

- The objective “reduce the impact of the waste industry on people's quality of life” – this is often be linked to perception. Perception can only be changed through increased awareness of the issues which is an indirect function of the plan. SA team feel that the objective is better left as in the original.
- Add an additional objective - maximise the potential of the waste industry to address social inclusion (e.g. social enterprises, helping people into employment etc).

Relevant Objectives for the SA

1.1.20 Taking into account all of the above information the following objectives and indicators have been chosen for the SA.

SA Objectives	Appraisal Questions. Does the plan...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impact of the waste industry on people’s quality of life and maximise the potential of the waste industry to address social inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of where people live and contribute by providing community services?

Sources of data

- Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council (2006): Population Estimates and Forecasts 2006.
- Office for National Statistics, Neighbourhood Statistics – www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk
- www.crimereduction.gov.uk
- Annual Household Income Analysis 2006. Luton Borough Council.

Data Gaps

1.1.21 None