

Luton Borough Council's
Environment Strategy
Looking after our environment

DRAFT

January 2007

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(Telephone)...01582 546000..... (Minicom/Textphone).....

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্যান্য সংস্করণেও সরবরাহ করা যেতে পারে। আপনি যদি বড় হরফে ছাপা, টেপ-এ রেকর্ড করা অথবা বাংলা ভাষায় অনুবাদ করা কপি চান, তাহলে এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করবেন (টেলিফোন)
(মিনিকম/টেক্সটফোন)

Gujarati

આ માહિતીવિગતની વ્યવસ્થા બીજી રીતે પણ થઈ શકે છે. જો તમને આ માહિતી મોટા છાપેલાં અક્ષરોમાં, ટેઇપ પર રેકોર્ડ કરેલી અથવા ગુજરાતી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપયા ટેલિફોન કરો:
(મિનિકોમ/ટેક્સ્ટ ફોન)

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੂਜੇ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਅਗਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਜਾ ਟੇਪ ਤੇ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ : ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ
ਮਿਨਿਕੋਮ / ਟੈਕਸਟ ਫੋਨ

Urdu

یہ معلومات آپ کو دوسری صورتوں میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو اس کی کاپی بڑے حروف میں، یا آواز کی صورت میں کیسٹ پر اردو زبان میں درکار ہے، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر منی کوم/ٹیکسٹ فون پر رابطہ کریں۔

Foreword

Luton Borough Council takes a responsible long-term view of providing a sustainable, quality environment for its citizens.

The Council's vision is to provide an attractive, clean town with biodiversity, landscape and green space protected for the future.

To achieve this vision, we need to work in partnership with the community, local businesses and other agencies, including the voluntary sector, which all play an important part in Luton's development and economy.

This Environment Strategy provides a framework to guide other Council strategies and plans. Putting the environment at the centre of our activities will ensure that a balanced approach is taken in promoting the growth and regeneration of the town.

As Leader of the Council, I believe it is essential for the Council to promote good practice and encourage businesses and the community to be sustainable. The Council advocates the concept of sustainable living. We also work hard to ensure that our actions meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the present without jeopardising the future of our Borough.

This strategy should not be seen as an end in itself - but as part of the overall vision that the Council has for the future of Luton.

Picture of Councillor David Franks

Councillor David Franks
Leader of Luton Borough Council
February 2007

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Introduction

Luton Borough Council's first Environment Strategy was produced in 1998. The Strategy was a result of the Local Agenda 21 (LA21) process, which was established following the First Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and from which the concept of sustainable development emerged. However, responsibilities for delivering sustainable development are progressively shifting from the international to the local level. Central Government has placed emphasis on the importance of action taken by the community and local authorities to bring about substantial environmental improvements.

The Borough Council, in partnership with Luton Forum's Environment and Sustainability Group, has identified the need to review the Strategy to bring it up-to-date with current frameworks and legislation. As part of Luton's vision to become an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable borough, it outlines the longer-term direction that the borough should take in order to attain environmental sustainability and ensure a vibrant, healthy community for all.

The framework of the Strategy is set in the context of the 2002 European Union's 6th Environment Action plan - 'Towards Sustainability', which is based around improving four key environmental concerns:

- Climate Change.
- Environment and health.
- Nature and biodiversity.
- Natural resources and waste.

Luton Borough Council is committed to tackling these areas of activity, which form the basis of the chapter headings, set out below.

- Protecting the Environment
- Tackling Climate Change.
- Improving the environment, health and quality of life.
- Conserving our natural and built environment.
- Using resources wisely and efficiently.

The Strategy summarises the issues particularly relevant to Luton. Under each heading examples of progress towards addressing them, as well as demonstrating how the Council is working in partnership with residents and businesses to make substantial environmental improvements in the borough.

Each of the areas covered in these chapters is supported by objectives and key actions demonstrating how with conscious goals and plans, the Council intends to make the delivery of its own services more sustainable and to encourage partners to adopt more sustainable management practices. These actions are in a variety of significant areas, including energy efficiency, use of renewable energies, waste minimisation and recycling, environmental education, air pollution, sustainable construction and design, improvements to public transport and ways to reduce dependency on the car.

Key partners and contacts can be found in the appendices together with a list of achievements, since the first Strategy was produced in 1998. The Strategy is also supported by a separate Action Plan which sets out the Council's short, medium and long-term strategic actions and targets so that it can be updated, monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

Background

The state of our environment is a key local, national and international concern.

The effects of global warming, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion, land development and transport all have negative impacts on the environment. Environmental scientists are working to identify the damage that has already been done, and to develop more sustainable ways of living, in order to reverse damage and protect the environment for future generations.

Luton Borough Council is responsible for the management and delivery of many key activities which impact on the environment, such as transport and traffic management, land use planning, energy efficiency and conservation, and the provision of a waste management service committed to minimisation, recycling and recovery. The Council is working to ensure that it is environmentally aware in all the activities it undertakes.

Furthermore, the Council also realises that protecting the environment can only be achieved with help from partners, local businesses, voluntary organisations and residents. In this respect the environment is being promoted through the Local Strategic Partnership and the Luton Forum. This Strategy has been informed by working closely with the Environment and Sustainability Group of the Luton Forum.

International Framework

In 1987 the Brundtland Report also known as “Our Common Future” alerted the world to the urgency of making progress towards economic development that could be sustained without depleting natural resources or harming the environment. The report provided a key statement on sustainable development, defining it as:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Five years after the Brundtland Report, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly asked for a report on progress made towards sustainable development and held the United Nations Conference on the Environment, also known as the first ‘Earth Summit’ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was the largest environmental conference ever held and aimed to build upon the Brundtland report in order to respond to pressing global environmental problems.

Five separate agreements were made at the Earth Summit:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Principles of Forest Management.
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
- Agenda 21 (a ‘blueprint’ for sustainable development).

These agreements committed countries, including the UK, to be more sustainable and are still adhered to today.

Agenda 21 is a commitment to sustainable development, which was agreed by many of the World's Governments. Nations that have pledged to take part in Agenda 21 are monitored by the International Commission on Sustainable Development, and are encouraged to promote Agenda 21 at the local level. It is within this context that Luton produced its Local Agenda 21 Action Plan in 1996 after a lengthy process of consultation and involvement with local businesses, community groups and organisations. The LA21 process has been subsumed not only within the Luton Forum, but also within actions incorporated in the Community Strategy, Luton Local Plan and now this Environment Strategy.

Since the first Earth Summit, there has also been a range of other national, European and International environmental meetings – all providing direction to nations on how to work towards the ideal of sustainable living. The term 'sustainable living' is drawn from the principles of Sustainable Development and emphasises that everyone can play a role in improving the environment through the choices they make and the way they live their daily lives.

Strategy Aims

The aim of this Environment Strategy is to safeguard and improve Luton's environment.

The strategy outlines how Luton Borough Council intends to work with its partners to:

- make improvements as indicated under the chapter headings below
- reduce the negative and maximize the positive impact(s) the Council makes on the environment through its activities
- implement an action plan and monitor progress; and
- develop good practice and encourage partners to do the same

To achieve this, the strategy outlines key programmes and initiatives below.

Although particular environmental objectives are placed under specific headings, they may have positive impacts on other areas of environmental concern.

As outlined earlier, the Council is responsible for the management and delivery of many key environmental programmes. It is committed to minimising the negative environmental impacts of its own organisation and seeks to improve the local, national and global environment in partnership with local people.

To ensure success, the Council needs to lead by example. Luton's latest Community Plan is an important strategy for the town, and its theme on 'Sustainable Communities and Quality of the Environment' identifies a broad range of objectives for improvement - helping to place key environment and sustainability issues at the heart of policy making in the town.

The Council seeks to set a good example in terms of community leadership and many of the Council's activities benefit the local and global environment. Its track record in protecting and managing the environment is good. Over the past ten years, the Council has enhanced recycling facilities, increased the number of protected conservation areas, and advanced environmental sustainability in the maintenance and expansion of London Luton Airport. As a responsible authority, Luton Borough Council advocates the ideas of sustainable living and development. This strategy aims to continue this trend and provide a vision for the future that includes the aspirations of all stakeholders, from businesses to individual citizens. Environmental sustainability is important to everyone and is also an essential part of the government's Sustainable Development strategy, which additionally highlights economic and social well-being.

To promote and achieve environmental sustainability, Luton needs to introduce policies that are long term and challenging, not simply meeting the status quo. In order to do this, the council needs to consider a far-sighted vision that takes into account how Luton should be in 20 years time. It will assist in securing maximum engagement with our partnership groups and help encourage as many people as possible to make a contribution.

Thus, the Council encourages other businesses and organisations in Luton to adopt sound environmental management practices and is taking steps to make the delivery of its own services more sustainable. Environmental actions, which the council has already achieved, are listed in Appendix A: "Actions speak louder than words".

Key Programmes and Initiatives

1. Commitment to protecting the environment

Objective: To ensure that both environmental concerns and impacts in all areas of the Council's activities are considered at a corporate level.

Luton Borough Council is committed to achieving sustainable development for the community. Sustainability ensures a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. We can all contribute to this by considering the impact of our actions on the environment and choosing alternative ways of doing things, such as minimising the use of energy and preserving our natural resources. The government has identified four objectives of sustainable development, which recognise that the environment, economy, and social well-being are interdependent. The four key objectives of sustainable development are:

- Social progress, which meets the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

Although this guide is largely about environmental sustainability, thus focusing on objectives 2 and 3, the other aspects are equally important and are considered in all actions discussed within this Environmental Strategy.

In considering the Council's corporate commitment to the environment it is important to recall that the Council has a number of statutory obligations to fulfil. These are either in terms of statutory requirements of local authorities or in relation to a regulatory function. In areas where the Council does not have a statutory obligation it is increasingly turning to partnerships and seeking private

finance to undertake environmental improvements or making the most of opportunities presented by Government and European funding to benefit local people.

There are many internal procedures, which help managers to monitor and collate information and assess corporate activity. The Borough Council has already adopted formal auditing procedures for a number of services. For example, the Luton Local Plan was subjected to a full sustainability appraisal of its policies; and Waste Management has produced a comprehensive environmental management system strategy for the borough. Presently, the Council has no internal monitoring system to measure its effectiveness in terms of the environment. Therefore, in the long term, there is a need for the Council to adopt a formalised procedure such as EMAS (Environmental Management and Audit Scheme) and ISO14001, to ensure achievement of environmental targets.

Key Actions

- Service Heads to initially review Environment Strategy Key Actions and include where appropriate in Service Plans.
- Support the work of the Luton Forum and Assembly in identifying, reviewing, publicising and taking action on key environment and sustainability issues in the town.
- Inclusion of the principles of the Environment Strategy into the Community Plan and encouraging partners to promote good practice within the wider community.
- Establishment of a dedicated EMAS officer for Strategy implementation and monitoring.

2. Tackling Climate Change

Objective: To mitigate the effects of climate change by enforcing actions in both the transport and energy areas that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to work with local partnerships to encourage effective action by businesses and individuals towards lessening the effects of climate change.

Scientifically, climate change refers to any variation in regional climates or in the Earth's global climate over time. These changes can be caused by Earth's natural processes, such as slow changes to the earth's orbit, or more recently by human activities.

Currently, climate change often refers specifically to the continuing global rise in average temperature, known as global warming. This trend is attributed to human actions, particularly the increase in green house gas levels, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂). Although these gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, they have increased dramatically since the industrial revolution, due to emissions from fossil fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas.

The increased level of man-made gases in the atmosphere have trapped the sun's heat rather than remit it back to space, in what is commonly referred to as the greenhouse effect. This is now causing a global increase in temperature resulting in potentially significant changes in weather patterns, including increase storm frequency, droughts, sea level rise, habitat loss, heat stress, and the spread of disease. These damages will only accelerate as the world continues to get warmer.

Due to the plethora of undisputed evidence of the existence of climate change, the drastic threat it poses if left unchecked, and the fact that man-made emissions are its main cause, the UK Government believes that climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today. Climate change will have major impacts on our societies and way of life, affecting agriculture and food security, causing water shortages, instigating population movements and affecting both our economy and security.

Thus, Central Government has taken significant steps towards reducing the effects of climate change, such as the recent Climate Change Bill, the Climate Change Levy and agreements, and the successful introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which draws many elements from the domestic emissions trading scheme. These measures have had a substantial impact on the reduction of green house gases in the UK and have helped the country to be on track to meet our commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12. The UK has furthered these actions by implementing a Climate Change Programme, which sets out initiatives to make significant progress by 2020 towards the long-term goal to reduce carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050.

Tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy for the long term, and it can be done in a way that does not cap the aspiration for economic and social sustainability. The 2006 Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change has stressed the need for an urgent and effective response, since ignoring climate change will eventually damage economic growth. The report states that our actions over the next few decades could create severe and irreversible future disruption to economic and social activity, on a scale that is comparable to the great wars and economic depression of the 20th century.

Essentially, the earlier effective action is taken, the less costly it will be. Mitigation (taking strong actions to reduce emissions) must be considered an investment, for the cost incurred now and over the next few decades will avoid the risks of severe and more costly consequences in the future. Furthermore there are opportunities for growth and development of markets for low-carbon, high-efficiency goods and services.

Thus, Luton Borough Council is very much committed to mitigating climate change and doing so in the most effective way. The Council has an impact on climate change through its regulatory powers and services and can create changes via two main strategies:

- reduce demand for emissions-intensive goods and services and
- increase efficiency, which can save both money and emissions

In the council, both strategies are applied within the main areas of transport and energy. Key measures in reducing the effects of climate change will be improving energy efficiency in housing and businesses, an increased use of renewable energy, use of alternative fuels and changing travel patterns such as reducing dependence on the car. The borough will also explore practical measures that can be taken to raise awareness and achieve behavioural change with regard to carbon emissions.

Energy consumption

Due to emissions from fossil fuels, energy use causes climate change, as well as a range of other environmental problems including acid rain and poor air quality. These problems will only worsen if current levels of consumption continue. Therefore, as a community we must use less energy in

our products and services and change the way we produce energy so that more comes from low-carbon and renewable sources.

Progress on energy efficiency relies on all of us, including individuals, companies, and the government. The challenge is to secure the heat, light and energy we need in our homes and businesses in a way that cuts the amount of oil, gas and electricity we use, and thus the carbon we emit.

Buildings currently account for virtually half our energy consumption and carbon emissions. In fact, energy consumption in dwellings has risen by around 20% since the 1980s. Careful consideration should be given to the energy used in the construction, use, reuse, and eventual demolition of buildings.

Energy efficiency must be a consideration in the design of new development. Luton's Local plan contains policies to influence energy consumption by encouraging energy efficient measures to be incorporated into the development design. Building Regulations require all new buildings to have an energy rating based upon the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). Dwellings are rated from 1 to 100 and developers are encouraged to seek to achieve a rating of 80 or above. Luton's 'Designing for Sustainability' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) policy states that all new dwellings should have a minimum Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment method rating of 'very good' or a SAP rating of 80 or above.

In 1996, a national home energy efficiency policy for council housing stock was developed and a ten-year programme for improving insulation began. The Council has been able to promote this policy through the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) and submits an annual progress report to the government.

The Council is committed to reducing energy consumption in its own buildings and aims to meet energy targets set by the environmentally conscious Building Research Energy Conservation Support Unit. With measures such as intelligent lighting systems which turn off when buildings are unoccupied, installation of low energy light bulbs and ensuring photocopiers power down when not in use, the council is making significant changes in its own energy usage. In 2003 the Council switched its electricity supplier to one that provides energy from environmentally sustainable

resources. Thus, the Town Hall's electricity and all street lighting is now powered by 100% green electricity, and other Council buildings are 78% green.

Yet, the main obstacles to energy efficiency are lack of information about costs and benefits, the absence of appropriate incentives, and the lack of motivation among consumers. Thus Luton strives to increase awareness for individuals and companies on the incentives to better utilizing energy, for example, through the Luton Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Transport

Luton is a busy centre for road, rail, and air travel. Not only does it host London Luton Airport, but it also has three railway stations and numerous strategic roads, such as the M1 and A6 which provide good north-south and east-west routes.

A comprehensive and high-performing transport system is vital to Luton's economic and social sustainability. Transport networks provide for the productivity and success of Luton, by getting people to work, bringing individuals into the town, and allowing citizens to socially interact. However transportation has to deal with the issues of traffic congestion, air pollution, and its contribution to climate change.

Emissions from the transport sector are a significant and growing contributor (about 25% in 2004) to the UK's overall greenhouse gas emissions. Those emissions contribute to climate change and thus, impact on long-term economic growth. Transport will therefore need to play an important role in the response to that challenge.

In July 2004, Central Government set out its policy for transport in the White Paper 'The Future of Transport', which aims to balance the need for travel with the need to improve the quality of life, thereby contributing to the aims of sustainable development. Land use planning is directly linked to developing the Government's policy and PPG13 (Transport) sets the following objectives:

- to promote more sustainable transport choices both for people and for moving freight;
- to promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and

- to reduce the need to travel, especially by car.

Since Luton is already well connected, the focus is to improve the performance and sustainability of the existing network. The borough must prioritise action on the parts of the transport system, which are critical in supporting economic growth. Luton thus needs to develop a balanced policy approach to transportation that considers the issues of economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Environmentally, the council promotes public transport, cycling and walking in Luton to reduce the need to travel by car, thereby reducing congestion and motorised transport's contribution to greenhouse gases.

The Council has two key duties in relation to transport. As the planning authority and the transport, traffic and highway authority, the Council influence both transport and land use planning. The Council is already trying to use land use policies to reduce car journeys, such as by locating retail and leisure facilities where they are most accessible to public transport, and controlling the location of new development to minimise the need to travel by private car.

Local transport policy is detailed in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis conurbation. To reduce transport's environmental effects, Luton Borough Council seeks to integrate all forms of transport, reduce both the need to travel and the distances travelled, prioritize pedestrians, cycling and public transport, and enhance economic opportunities. Luton has produced both a Walking and Cycling Strategy, which not only detail the council's goals to increase the role of walking and cycling as modes of sustainable transport, but also sets forth plans to create safer, more convenient, and more attractive pedestrian and biking facilities.

Improving public transport by reducing costs and increasing the service can enhance social inclusion. It can also help to achieve a modal shift, from the car to a more sustainable mode of transport. In Luton's most deprived wards, private car ownership is low. However, Luton maintains a comprehensive local bus service network and the proportion of journeys made by bus is higher than in most comparable urban areas. For example, 4,000 people travel into central Luton between 7:00 and 9:30 every weekday morning. The Council is encouraging the use of buses and public transport through the concessionary fare scheme and the tendered local bus services.

The proposed Translink guided busway system lies at the heart of the transport strategy, by taking advantage of the former railway line between Dunstable and Luton Airport Parkway Station. Access points along the busway will allow this express corridor to be utilized by numerous services within the area. To encourage the use of the systems, the scheme will incorporate improved passenger facilities, such as shelters, real-time passenger information, and off-bus ticketing.

Moreover, the LTP outlines several targets for bus services, including increasing the number of bus passenger journeys by 10% from 2000 to 2010, doubling the proportion of employees covered by travel plans from 2005 to 2010, increasing the proportion of air passengers using public transport to 35% by 2006, and increasing funding for public transport investments. Luton's Bus Strategy also seeks to improve bus services' attractiveness, reliability, accessibility and efficiency, in order to provide a positive image for public transport and encourage more sustainable means of travel.

While the Council can help to provide opportunities for using different types of transport, this approach can only be effective when businesses and individuals make changes to their own lifestyles and working practices. Therefore, Luton's partnership campaigns such as Travel wise have an important role to play in promoting sustainable living and contributing to a successful environment strategy. Travel wise, a national programme raises awareness of the environmental, health, economic and social effects of car use and promotes more sustainable modes of travel and living that do not rely heavily on the car.

Finally, as a major employer in the borough, the Council has its own fleet of vehicle. It also generates commuting journeys to its various sites within the borough. This provides the Council with an excellent opportunity to lead by example and to develop a broad range of initiatives. The Council's diesel vehicles are ahead of European legislation and are being fitted with Euro-five engines, which reduce particulates and carbon emissions and the Council's petrol vehicles are being converted to or purchased as dual-fuel vehicles. A new trial electric vehicle has been purchased for pest control purposes and tricycles are being used to provide an internal postal carrier service. In addition, a new gas refuelling facility has been built at its central depot, Kingsway.

London Luton Airport

Any environmental strategy for Luton must include the issues arising from the existence and expansion of London Luton Airport (LLA). The airport is a considerable source of direct and indirect employment in Luton and, for economic reasons, helps promote general well being. However, noise, pollution, and other environmental impacts are understandably a concern to residents.

Both Luton's Structure and Local Plans contain policies relating to the future development of the airport and a development brief was adopted in September 2001 as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

In December 2004, the Department for Transport published "The Future of Air Transport" a White Paper setting out its plans for the growth of air transport across the UK. This white paper recognizes the economic and infrastructural need to increase the UK's aviation capacity, yet also calls for a balanced approach, which does not cause extensive and irreversible environmental damage. The Council recognises that any expansion must be subject to environmental constraints and carried out in the least environmentally damaging way. It also recognises the importance of balancing the environmental with the social and economic issues in any forthcoming scheme.

The Government supports the growth of LLA, up to the maximum use of a single full-length runway broadly on the current alignment, on condition that overall environmental impacts of such development will be carefully controlled and adequate mitigation provided. This development could, subject to planning approval, allow growth to around 30 million passengers per annum by 2030.

The Council will encourage any new buildings to take account of policies contained within the Luton Local Plan, in respect of incorporating measures for renewable energy generation within the design of the building. The Council will also ensure that the expansion plans include measures to increase the percentage of travellers arriving by public transport. It has worked closely with the airport management team to develop a Surface Access Strategy aimed at getting more passengers and workers to, from and around the airport by sustainable means. According to the Department for Transport's (DfT) 2006 progress report, between 2003 and 2005, LLA achieved an

increase of 4 percentage points in the number of people taking public transport to access the airport.

London Luton Airport Operations Limited have been working with the Carbon Trust to monitor and reduce consumption of energy and water, in the current terminal and regularly report figures to the Airport Consultative Committee (LLACC).

In addition, a noise insulation scheme relating to existing airport operations was published in September 2006 and information on issues relating to aircraft flights and noise is published on an annual basis in the 'London Luton Airport Annual Monitoring Report which is produced jointly between the Airport Operator and the Council.

Key Actions

- Implement Translink as a key public transport improvement in the urban conurbation and support other public transport improvements.
- High standard of energy efficiency introduced in all new buildings and extensions to council owned property.
- Development of the Council's Travel Plan.
- Partnership working with transport providers to ensure public transport meets local needs.
- Encourage the use of cleaner fuels such as Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the community and our partnership organisations, such as public transport and private hire vehicles.

3. Environment, health and quality of life

Objective: To create a healthier, safer, greener and cleaner environment.

The state of the environment in Luton affects the quality of life in our community. People's health, well-being and behaviour are all influenced by the environment in which they live and work.

We need to cultivate an understanding of the close links between environmental sustainability and health. A poor environment has a direct connection to poor health, for example the relation between air pollution from transport and breathing disorders. There are notable health benefits of a better environment. Reducing dependency on the car and promoting walking and cycling, also encourages fitness and a healthy lifestyle. In addition, the maintenance of green space encourages healthier lifestyles through improving access to places to exercise and take part in sports.

Luton Borough Council works in partnership with Luton Primary Care Trust and the Luton Forum through the Environment and Sustainability Group and the Health and Social Care Group. Both groups aim to improve the health of local people through collaborative action of partner organisations.

Quality of Life

Objective: To promote a safe, clean and healthy environment.

The Council takes a proactive role in terms of health and safety, housing, public health, pest control and street cleansing. It also provides parks; children's play areas, and sports and leisure facilities in order to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Light and noise are still major national problems and are recognised as some of the most intrusive forms of pollution particularly in densely developed urban areas such as Luton. The Local Plan outlines regulation against development that causes light and noise pollution and the council has considered light pollution in their recent energy conservation policies, for example by limiting the brightness of outdoor lights. In addition, noise pollution is taken very seriously with the borough. A comprehensive complaint and response system has been implemented and a high standard of sound insulation is required in new development and conversions.

All pesticides and chemicals used by the council are constantly reviewed not only by health and safety risk assessments, but also for their potential affects to the natural environment. The council uses the least environmentally damaging and most effective products.

Local residents need to feel secure - both in the town centre and where they live. Joint initiatives involving council officers and colleagues from other organisations, such as Bedfordshire Police and The Safer Luton Partnership, all play a part in reducing crime and the fear of crime, thereby improving the living environment.

Fouling by dogs is a major concern to the general public and affects our healthy and clean surroundings. Responsible dog owners share this concern and the situation has greatly improved through the increased use of dog bins provided by the Council.

Luton was chosen as the location for a Sport Action Zone, which is an initiative to create an effective and sustainable sporting infrastructure in areas of high social and economic deprivation and ensure there is a more equitable participation in sport. Luton was one of the first twelve SAZ's in the country.

To encourage healthy leisure activities, the town boasts major parks at Stockwood and Wardown, there are also six Sports and Recreation Centres operated by Active Luton, two museums, a golf course, the Hat Factory arts centre, eight libraries and an international carnival.

Air quality

Objective: To minimise pollution and harmful emissions to the environment caused through the council's direct actions thereby setting a good example and in its regulatory roles, to encourage local businesses, organisations and the community to do the same.

Clean air is essential to human health. There is now scientific evidence that air pollution affects human health, for not only does pollution precipitate illness, but also, recent scientific evidence shows that it can actually cause it.

The National Air Quality Strategy 2000 (NAQS) not only influences the protection of the natural environment by establishing pollution objectives to conserve vegetation and ecosystems, but also aims to protect human health by setting health-based objectives for main air pollutants. According to NAQS standards, the UK has an overall low air pollution rating and air quality is generally high. This is an improvement from the infamous smogs of the 1950s and has been achieved by

regulating industry and through introducing progressively tighter emissions standards for vehicles. Although these improvements will continue, there is still well deserved public concern nationally and locally about the levels of some gaseous compounds and their effect on climate, human health, plants and crops.

Luton's strategy for dealing with air quality includes a combination of transport related and wider proposals; to mitigate the impact of poor air quality in declared and potential future Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). The alleviation of these AQMA's, and ensuring that future AQMA's are not declared will lead to a better quality of life, including lessening community severance, local health improvements and a better quality of urban space.

With a carefully co-ordinated and sustainable approach, we can reduce the effect of pollution on our health and our environment. Luton Borough's pollution control regimes are concerned with determining appropriate levels of emissions of pollutants from different sources, and ensuring that ambient air quality meets relevant standards. The planning system determines the location of development that may give rise to pollution, and should ensure that other developments are not affected by major existing or potential sources of pollution.

Whilst the Council is able to monitor the levels of certain pollutants and advise the public accordingly, it is unsustainable lifestyles that cumulatively cause the polluting effects on the environment. Thus the actions discussed in Section Two: Tackling Climate Change with regard to energy and transport consumption is also important for maintaining good air quality.

Environmental Education

Objective: To raise awareness and understanding of environmental issues and encourage sustainable living - leading to changes in individual and corporate behaviour.

Raising awareness of environmental issues and educating people with regard to what they can do to improve the environment is key to encouraging positive action.

Citizen concern and involvement should be a key driver of environmental policy and actions as well as a means for increasing community capacity to improve the environment locally and beyond. Environmental education is recognised as an important theme in the national curriculum.

As a unitary authority, the Council has an important role in education and raising environmental awareness. The Council holds education and awareness events on topics such as noise pollution, responsible dog ownership, and recycling.

It is important that the community broadly understands major issues, such as the global environmental impact of lifestyle choices, in order for positive solutions to be found. Many small businesses think that their impact on the environment is negligible; however, 90% of businesses across the EU are small to medium-sized and, collectively, make a huge impact on the local and global environment. They may outweigh the impact of 'big' industrial concerns, which are normally associated with environmental degradation. As a major employer in Luton, the Council must lead by example and provide environmental information and guidance to staff. Likewise, it must support and encourage small to medium-sized businesses in developing environmentally sustainable practices, along with the more traditional focus on large companies.

It is also important to involve local people in decision-making. The Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) identifies community involvement in decision making as a key means of improving local neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood partnerships have the local environment as a key theme of their renewal plans. These promote solutions identified by local people to local problems around issues such as traffic management, the use of green spaces and the general cleanliness and presentation of the local area. Area Committees also provide a forum for local people to raise environmental concerns with the Council.

In response to community concern related to street cleaning, abandoned cars, vandalism, graffiti and the quality of local green space, the Council has published and issued a Customer Contract to local residents to improve access to services which deal with issues related to the street scene. In addition, the council has implemented the Street Seen programme, which provides a more efficient engagement with local individuals to improve the environment on highway or other publicly owned land in their neighbourhood.

Key Actions

- Promotion of healthy lifestyles in the social and work environment.
- Promotion of the advantages of exercise.

- Review the use of pesticides and chemicals and increase the use of the least environmentally damaging and most effective products.
- Pro-active approach to potential pollution incidents, in addition to carrying out the council statutory duties relating to pollution control.
- Operation of a complaint based response system to all pollution incidents.
- Establish a Corporate working group to develop resources in support of environmental education.
- Support for environment education initiatives to the public, schools and community groups.
- Regular energy awareness training sessions for partner agencies and colleagues who work with people at home.
- Promote environmental decision making through Neighbourhood Partnerships and Area Committees.

4. Conserving our natural and built environment

Objective: To protect, enhance and manage the natural and built environment.

The quality of the built and natural environment is a major contributor to the quality of life for people who live and work in the town. A good environment will attract investment and encourage local pride. Luton's Community Plan 2002- 2012 reinforces the importance that the local community places on the quality of the local environment in which they live, work and play. This issue is also at the heart of national government policy to improve public places and the public realm, as set out in the Urban White Paper and the Government report 'Living Places - Cleaner, Safer, Greener', published in October 2002.

The character and quality of Luton's environment is dependent on effective local planning, quality building and landscape design, proper management of nature conservation sites, community

involvement, landscape maintenance and general improvements to the green environment. Essentially, Luton needs to maintain its present land and buildings and provide opportunities for new development that will create a well-designed and attractive built environment, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment, including the creation of new wildlife habitats.

The Council also has a strong partnership role with organisations, businesses and local people in terms of direct action on street cleansing, waste management, maintenance of infrastructure, removing graffiti, and improving urban open space.

Planning covers a wide range of environmental issues, and as a strategic and local planning authority, the Council is able to exert influence on the natural and built environment through land use policies. The Luton Local Plan 2001-2011 contains a set of objectives, targets and performance indicators in order to measure the implementation and effectiveness of policies. These include protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, requiring good design and ensuring development is carried out in accordance with the sustainability aims of the Structure Plan and regional guidance.

As a responsible authority, the Council welcomes and advocates the purpose of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which incorporates and assesses environmental issues into plans and programmes.

Efficient use of land

Given that Luton is virtually built up to its boundaries, land resources within the town are scarce and it is important that any land that becomes available is used efficiently. This means building at high densities in appropriate locations, balanced with the need for open space to provide an attractive living environment. Sites that have previously been developed, or 'brownfield sites,' should be used before green sites. The council also encourages residential conversions, re-use of empty buildings, and higher residential densities.

Brownfield development and building re-use is expected by both national policy and the Local Plan, and advice is also set out in Luton Borough Council's supplementary planning guidance, 'Designing for Sustainability'. In addition, Regional Planning Guidance for the South East of

England (RPG9) sets authorities a target of 60% of all new development on previously developed land. Almost every recent housing development in Luton, has been on a brownfield site. For example, the recent development at Napier Park, providing 1000 residential units and around 3000 jobs, is not only built on brownfield land, but is also located near high quality public transport and recycles almost all materials on site.

Even though the council stresses building on brownfield sites, it is acknowledged that the future housing needs of Luton are unlikely to be met by development on previously developed sites within the borough. Luton forms part of the wider Milton Keynes Sub-Region of the Communities Plan 'Growth Areas', which sets out the scale of development over the next 20-30 years. The strategy highlights the need for planned, sustainable communities with adequate support for future needs, such as transportation, health and education.

In addition, crucial supporting infrastructure and access to nearby jobs needs to be provided so that unnecessary stress on Luton's existing infrastructure and built environment can be avoided. One such successful development is the Innovation Centre and Business Base at Butterfield, which although built on Greenfield land, was constructed with a small building footprint and has been built with a high level of environmental sustainability and biodiversity. The Centre was awarded an Excellent Rating from the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), which judges building on their energy-use, transportation links, and building materials, among other things.

Furthermore, the Council is responsible for identifying and dealing with contaminated land within the town and has in place a Contaminated Land Strategy. The Council will make full use of planning conditions to deal with contaminated land and encourage its re-use to make the best utilization of land resources and relieve pressure on green-field sites.

Natural Heritage

Luton is located within the Metropolitan Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Natural Beauty (AONB). In addition, the town hosts many large and small natural parks and green spaces, outdoor sports and leisure facilities and community gardens. Our parks and natural spaces attract people to work, visit, and invest in Luton. The Luton Local Plan states that the maintenance and preservation of the borough's green space is at the heart of the urban renaissance.

The natural environment has numerous benefits to the community. It provides valuable space for recreation, as well as relaxation and an escape from the urban environment. It also doubles as valuable learning spaces imparting knowledge and experience of the natural world. We must protect and conserve our natural parks and green spaces for their own integrity, but also for the enjoyment and benefit they provide for future generations. Experiencing the natural world is inspirational and advocates good physical and mental health.

Luton provides a wide variety of habitats for plants, animals, birds and insects. These form the basis of the natural environment – often referred to as biodiversity. Biodiversity provides numerous services that we usually overlook. It helps regulate the chemistry of our atmosphere and water supply and affects the natural recycling of the Earth's nutrients. Diversity of nature is an important measure of quality of life, which should be designed into the fabric of built-up areas for its own sake and for the benefit and enjoyment of people.

Thus, the important places for wildlife should not be damaged. Luton Borough Council will protect both natural land and species through their planning powers. Both are at threat due to unmanaged development and biodiversity is specifically vulnerable to the man-made effects from global warming and climate change, as well as pollution (air pollution, water pollution, and soil contamination).

Luton will promote the management and enhancement of green space for biodiversity and support public accessibility and appreciation of nature. Through good planning and design, the overall aim is to protect high quality wildlife habitats, restore/minimise fragmentation of habitats and prevent loss of species. Likewise, the council is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to green spaces. Initiatives in place to maintain, enhance, and even increase our green space include major new developments not only being required to provide green space, either within the site or on another nearby site, but also habitats, including trees and hedges, should be kept or replaced appropriately on site.

The Local Plan, the draft Greenspace Strategy, the Nature Conservation Strategy and the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (2001) all highlight areas of conservation interest, wildlife interest and landscape heritage that are important or at risk and identifies actions and targets to ensure protection and enhancement of our green spaces and biodiversity. These

include County Wildlife Sites, district and neighbourhood parks, allotments and local open spaces. These resources need to be managed, maintained and monitored regularly and targets are in place to ensure that this is carried out in a co-ordinated way. The protection and enhancement of these features also make a contribution to national and global issues, not only biodiversity, but also sustainability, social inclusion, community safety, urban regeneration and health.

The key to the success of these protection policies has been in ensuring that up-to-date information is available. The Council has been monitoring and updating information in relation to the best sites for nature conservation - known as County Wildlife Sites. With the Bedfordshire and Luton Wildlife Working Group, it has a co-ordinated and robust programme, which provides strong protection for sites and a continuing review system. Much of the information, particularly comprehensive maps regarding the protected areas and other green spaces, such as playing fields and public gardens, can be retrieved electronically via the Local Plan Key.

Finally, the Council has its own nature conservation team at the John Dony Field Centre in Bushmead. The team carries out conservation management work and provides a valuable educational resource. The Council also works on a range of projects with the community and external partners such as the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Friends of the Earth and the Groundwork Trust, to enhance and improve the environment of the town. During the past ten years the council has been successful in identifying and bidding for funds to provide ongoing improvements to the natural environment, for example, heritage lottery funding received for the restoration of Wardown Park and Countryside Stewardship funding for seven different areas.

Built Heritage

Built heritage helps to define for a community a sense of place and give the area an identity. It can contribute to feelings of connectedness, community pride and confidence, as well as exciting curiosity about our past and enriching our daily lives.

Apart from the social and cultural value of heritage, there are many economic and environmental benefits of protecting our heritage. It can contribute to the economy through cultural tourism, creating employment and regenerating communities. Sensitive adaptations of heritage buildings for new purposes can also avoid or reduce demolition waste and have significant environmental benefits.

The Council has designated four areas not only to conserve and enhance their character, but also to ensure that any new development does the same. In addition, Luton has over one hundred listed buildings of special architectural and historical interest, which receive protection through planning legislation.

In High Town Road and Plaiters Lea, the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) has generated investment and helped renovate the area, particularly introducing traffic calming measures and improving the overall community environment with new street furniture and improved public access. To continue the regeneration in this area, the council is actively seeking further funding for heritage schemes.

New development should make a positive contribution to the quality of the built and natural environment and should not adversely affect the amenities currently enjoyed by residents and visitors. The Local Plan ensures that new developments are well designed and consistent with the overall strategy for urban renaissance and sustainable development.

Key Actions

- Develop a greenspace strategy for parks and open spaces including trees
- Production of management plans for sites of nature conservation interest to increase biodiversity
- Commitment to achieving optimum environmental gain to the residents of Luton from all developments through the planning process.
- Input of environmental information onto the Council's Geographical Information System.
- Survey and review site management on County Wildlife Sites and 'third-tier' conservation sites.
- Meet the relevant targets in the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan.

- Provide advice on and monitor development affecting Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- Co-ordinated development of renewal in built areas through the use of Master Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.

5. Using resources wisely and efficiently

Objective: To reduce the Borough's consumption of materials, water and energy by promoting efficient use of resources.

Sustaining the environment requires the efficient use of resources.

The depletion of natural resources is a key environmental concern, particularly as both our standards of living and the global and local population rise. In order to retain our natural resources, there is a need to utilise alternative cleaner fuels such as Liquid petroleum gas (LPG), and solar energy, as well as power generated by water, wind or waste (also known as biomass). If we do not act now, the UK will be dependant on imported energy for three-quarters of its primary energy needs by 2020, with gas and oil supplies being depleted by 2006 and 2010 respectively. We currently use precious resources and energy inefficiently and carelessly as people have become accustomed to an abundant supply of energy and water.

The uncontrolled management of waste is also extremely damaging to the environment. The Council manages the borough's waste through operating a Waste Management Station and Household Waste and Recycling Centres, as well as implementing sustainable waste management through education and initiatives to recycle, recover, reuse and minimise waste materials.

The Council can influence the use of raw materials by reviewing its approach to direct purchasing and contract specifications. It can reduce the need to purchase new materials by using, for example, recycled aggregate products for construction such as highways schemes and by minimising waste and repairing or reusing existing products. The Council's procurement division has produced a Purchasing policy document, which covers all aspects of the Council's extensive

use of sustainable materials, including recycled paper, energy efficient or ozone friendly office equipment and environmentally friendly cleaning materials. Using the guidance contained in this policy most products that the council purchases are now environmentally friendly both in production and use.

Luton Borough Council realizes that there are some households where the adequate heating of homes is an unaffordable 'luxury'. In many cases, this is also synonymous with social problems surrounding income and inefficient use of energy. The desire to reduce the uses of resources should not affect people getting adequate heat and energy. Thus, the Council's Beacon Award winning Affordable Warmth Strategy (working in partnership with other organisations such as Luton Primary Care Trust, Vauxhall pensioners, and the Department of Work and Pensions) has contributed to reducing fuel poverty - resulting in a quality of life improvement for vulnerable residents.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is an important element in meeting the Government's commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. With this in mind the Government set a target to generate 10% of UK electricity from renewable sources by 2010. The Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future-Creating a Low Carbon Economy set out the intention of doubling that to 20% by 2020. At a regional level, the East of England has a target to meet 14% of electricity needs from renewable energy by 2010, with Bedfordshire's target being 13%. These targets will be subject to review as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy process and the Government's revised Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable energy.

Luton's Local Plan includes a policy requiring all buildings above 1000m² to incorporate renewable energy generation equipment to meet at least 10% of the buildings energy needs.

In addition to its role as a local and strategic planning authority, the Council can contribute directly to this target by simple measures such as choosing equipment powered by solar energy when replacing items such as parking meters, street lighting and calculators. The Council has already chosen to purchase much of its electricity from a Green Energy supplier, thus contributing to the production of electricity from renewable sources and all new construction for council owned

properties will follow or exceed Building Research Energy Conservation Support Unit (BRECSU) guidelines.

Most of our energy is generated in large power stations and about 75% of our heat comes from gas through a nationwide network. Yet new and existing technologies are making it possible to generate energy efficiency near where we use it, thus delivering lower emissions, increasing diversity of supply, and often lowering cost.

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) can be an efficient way of supplying energy and is supported by governmental policy. CHP uses waste heat generated by power station turbines or industrial processes to heat buildings. A few CHP systems are already in use in Luton, for example, at the Wardown Leisure Centre and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Water Resources

There is growing concern about the issue of depleted water resources in the UK. Protection of water supplies and reduced water consumption are becoming increasingly important. Water companies are now required to implement programmes to reduce leakage from underground pipes. All individuals and businesses have a role to play in ensuring that water is not wasted.

Technology is available to minimise water consumption – such as low flow taps and showers, low water flush toilets, etc. There is also potential for using rainwater and recycling water. The Council is committed to introducing such measures in its own properties.

Planning policies also consider the issue of flood risk. Development will not be permitted either where there is a risk of flooding or where it will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. Sustainable drainage systems can help minimise the run off that contributes to flooding. Luton's 'Designing for Sustainability' supplementary guide covers ways of using water more efficiently to minimise demand.

Waste Management

Objective: To use sustainable waste management techniques to minimise waste and maximise reuse, recovery and recycling of materials.

Waste management is a key issue in environmental management and affects everyone in Luton. For many people the collection, recycling and disposal of waste is a key area of contact with the Council. As a unitary authority, the Council is responsible for ensuring that all household, commercial and industrial waste is managed and disposed of safely.

Legislative, social and economic concerns have led local authorities to rethink the way they manage waste. As a responsible organisation, the Council has taken a long-term view on the waste it generates and to its own use of materials. It promotes recycling, recovery and minimisation as a means of reducing waste, and helps create markets for collected recyclables by purchasing goods made from recycled materials wherever economical and practicable.

The Council is responsible for waste planning and promotes sustainable waste planning in its Minerals and Waste Local Plan. It also promotes the Government's National Waste Strategy and the waste hierarchy of reduction, reuse, recovery and disposal.

The Council has formulated a long-term strategy to increase its recycling rate to 33% by 2012 and reduce waste going to landfill by one-third of the 1995 figures by 2020. To achieve this goal, the council provides kerbside recycling, composting of green waste in parks, and promotes the need for waste minimisation and uptake of recycling facilities through a proactive education role. Part of this strategy also involves awarding a partnership-based contract for managing the Council's waste and meeting its statutory recycling targets.

With the enactment of the European Union's Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, as well as UK legislation such as the Landfill Directive, which sets demanding targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill, more resources are now required for sustainable waste management. In addition, the council must advocate greater awareness of sustainable waste management to the community. It has already produced numerous public leaflets about services available and the benefits to recycling and more educational material is presently being planned. The council and its partners are in an ideal position to raise awareness about issues relating to waste management and to motivate the local population to play their part in minimising the waste stream.

Forty percent of waste comes from construction. The Designing for Sustainability guide has outlined borough objectives towards encouraging the re-use of materials and reducing the amount of waste generated on site.

Key actions

- Develop procedures, which challenge purchases that do not take into account positive environment factors or the avoidance of environmental consequences.
- Production of a comprehensive waste recycling and minimisation strategy.
- Introduce technology to minimise water consumption in council owned properties
- Promotion and implementation of a waste recycling and minimisation plan for Council owned premises.
- Increase the variety of recyclable materials collected from kerbside across the whole borough.
- Expand Kerbside green waste collection to all households, which have a potential to produce green waste.
- Increase network of neighbourhood recycling sites to meet government targets.
- Creation of departmental 'green champions' throughout the Borough Council.

Implementing the Actions

A variety of strategies and actions have been suggested in the previous sections. The execution and monitoring of the strategy will be undertaken through the 'Key Actions Implementation Plan', which will be published supplemental to this strategy. The Plan will set out what the Council will do to achieve the objectives identified. It will also set out detailed information about the activities, who will be responsible for their implementation, how they will be implemented and by when. This

includes activities with partner organisations and raising awareness of environmental issues to staff and to the public.

Every strategy that aims to achieve certain objectives and targets needs to be reviewed and monitored, so that the actions can build on good practice and reflect any external and internal changes that warrant further implementation. Thus, along with this strategy, a 'Key Actions Implementation Plan' will be published, which will outline specific smart targets. It is necessary to monitor and check that actions have been implemented and whether objectives are being met. It is also important that people contributing to the objectives and those who will benefit from our work are aware of the progress. Thus it is vital to report the successes and failures of this environmental strategy to staff and public alike.

Glossary

Affordable Warmth Referral scheme

A strategy to tackle fuel poverty by identifying those at risk and then putting them in touch with resources available for help.

Agenda 21

An agreement originating from the 1992 United Nations (UN) Earth Summit. The Agenda sets out what needs to be done in order to tackle the social, economic and environmental problems, which are threatening the planet. Agenda 21's implementation was intended to involve action at international, national, regional and local levels. Thus, local authorities have taken steps to implement the plan within their jurisdiction, as recommended in Chapter 28 of the document. Such programmes are known as 'Local Agenda 21' or 'LA21'.

Air Quality Strategy

The central government produced the National Air Quality Strategy in 1997 to provide a comprehensive approach to maintaining and improving the quality of ambient air in the UK. The strategy outlines the air quality objectives for the eight pollutants that are presently the most concern and outlines the dates which these targets should be met.

Area of Great Landscape Value

Designated by the County Council as landscape areas of particular value to Bedfordshire and Luton.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An area that is of such outstanding natural beauty to be of national importance. Designated by the Countryside Agency under Section 87 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to protect landscapes of national importance. Luton lies within the Chilterns AONB.

Aviation White Paper

The White Paper sets out a strategic framework for the sustainable development of increased airport capacity in the UK over the next 30 years. While recognizing the economic need to increase the UK's aviation capacity, it calls for a balanced approach, which takes into account noise pollution, property blight, safety, and environmental concerns such as climate change.

Biodiversity

The variety of organisms on land, in water and in the air, the habitats in which they live and the relationship between them.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

A plan established by the national or local government to conserve or enhance biodiversity. The most common BAPs in the UK are the UK BAP Priority Species Action Plan and the UK BAP Priority Habitat Action Plans; both of which provide information on the threats facing various species and detailed actions and targets for conservation. Local BAPs, which conform to county boundaries, exist, including the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan.

Biomass

The biodegradable fraction of agricultural, industrial, and municipal products, waste and residues.

Brownfield Sites

See Previously Developed Land (PDL).

Climate Change

Scientifically, climate change refers to any variation in regional climates or in the Earth's global climate over time. These changes can be caused by Earth's natural processes, such as slow changes to the earth's orbit, or more recently by human activities. Currently, climate change often refers specifically to the continuing global rise in average temperature, known as global warming. This trend is specifically attributed to human actions, particularly the increase in green house gas

levels, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), due to emissions from fossil fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas.

Community Plan

A statutory document prepared under Section 4 of the local Government Act 2000 in order to promote the economic, environmental and social well-being of an area. In Luton, the Community Plan 2002-12 has been developed by the Luton Forum, a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Conservation Area

An area designated under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an area where it is desirable to preserve or enhance the character of its special architectural or historic interest.

Contaminated Land

Defined in Section 78a of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as “any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that

- (a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
- (b) pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused”.

County Wildlife Sites (CWSs)

Key sites of local nature conservation interest, designated by the Borough Council. They are formally known as Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

Development

The carrying out of building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on, over or under land or the making of a material change in the use of any buildings or other land.

Development Briefs

Guides to the amount, type and design of development that will be permitted on specific sites.

Development Plan

Documents that together set out the policies and proposals for the use of land within an area. In Luton this comprises the Structure Plan, the Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The development plan provides the primary basis for the consideration of planning applications.

Earth Summit

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit was a major conference held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to June 14, 1992 to discuss global environmental issues. Some of the environmental issues addressed are:

- systematic scrutiny of patterns of production — particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste
- alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which are linked to global climate change
- new reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smog
- the growing scarcity of water

The Summit achieved the agreement on both Agenda 21 and the Climate Change Convention, which led to the Kyoto Protocol. A second Earth Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, met in Johannesburg in 2002 and not only affirmed commitment to the full implementation of Agenda 21, but also established the environmental Millennium Development Goals.

English Heritage

A body established to advise the Government and others on the preservation and enhancement of ancient monuments, historic buildings and Conservation Areas, and to promote public enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

A detailed assessment submitted by developers as part of the planning application process, of the likely environmental (build and natural) impact of the proposed development.

Environmental Management & Audit Scheme (EMAS)

A voluntary initiative which acknowledges organisations that continually review and improve their environmental performance and go beyond the minimum legal compliance. EMAS runs an environmental management system and reports on organisations performance by publishing an independently-verified environmental statement.

Global Warming

The scientifically observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere in recent decades and its predicted future continuation. Most of the warming that has occurred over the last 50 years is attributed to human activities, particularly the increased concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide (CO₂). This causes the greenhouse effect and leads to warming of the Earth's surface. Greenhouse gases are released by activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture.

Green Belt

An Area of open space around major towns and cities within which development will not normally be permitted for uses other than those appropriate to rural areas.

Greenfield Sites

Land or sites that have not been previously developed.

Greenhouse Effect

A process that increases global warming by trapping heat from the earth that is normally radiated beyond the atmosphere. The heat is trapped by the presence of greenhouse gases, of which some occur naturally in the environment and others are attributed to human activities. See Global Warming.

Hazardous Substances

A comprehensive list is given in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substance) Regulations 1992.

Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)

Schemes that provide UK and EU funding towards economic improvements in areas considered to be of historic interest made by improving individual buildings and both public and private places. In Luton, financial assistance has been given to around thirty buildings for repairs and restoration of original features.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Those on a Register (produced by English Heritage) of parks and gardens considered to be essential to an understanding of the history of the landscape.

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA)

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities to submit to the Secretary of State an energy conservation report identifying practicable and cost-effective measures to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation in their area and to report on progress made in implementing the measures. Improvements achieved through HECA contribute to meeting the UK's Climate Change commitments.

Infrastructure

The physical services necessary for buildings to be useable: e.g. roads, sewers, water, electricity and gas.

Kyoto Protocol

A 1997 agreement made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which assigns mandatory targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide and five other gases) to signatory nations. The UK, along with the rest of the EU, have ratified the protocol and negotiated to get wavering countries on board.

Land Fill Directive

The EU Landfill Directive [1999/31/EC] was adopted on 16th July 1999. The Directive aims to improve standards of land filling across Europe, through setting specific requirements for the design, operation and aftercare of landfills and for the types of waste that can accept in landfills.

Listed Building

A building or other structure included in a list compiled by the Secretary of State as a building of special architectural, cultural, or historic interest. This status, which applies to around half a million buildings, prevents the structure from be demolished, extended, or altered without special permission from the local planning authority.

Listed Building Consent

The written permission of the Local Planning Authority or Secretary of State to carry out works for the demolition, alteration or extension of a Listed Building [Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 s.8].

Local Agenda 21 (LA21)

The local application of Agenda 21. See Agenda 21.

Local Housing Needs

A perceived demand for residential housing from local people, which is commensurate with their housing requirements. These requirements comprise need to move; all concealed households living within all existing households in unsuitable housing who other households who need to move; and all statutory homeless households who do not have access to a permanent home.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Established by Local Authorities under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to provide opportunities for public involvement in nature conservation at a local level. LNRs are of local, but not necessarily national, importance and most are owned by local authorities who then usually pass the management of the reserve to County Wildlife trusts or other local environmental bodies. A LNR has certain protection against surrounding development and may be given

protection against damaging operations. Although there is no national legal protection for LNRs, they are usually included in areas' Local Plans.

Local Plans

Detailed land use plans, produced by district councils to guide development in their areas. Local plans are required to be in general conformity with the Structure Plan (see below).

Luton Forum (Local Strategic Partnership LSP)

Luton's Community empowerment network made up of community and voluntary groups.

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

A statutory five-year strategy, which aims to promote sustainable transport and provide a safe and integrated transport network via identified initiatives. The Luton-Dunstable LTP covers the Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis conurbation.

Luton Assembly

Luton's community empowerment group made up of community and voluntary groups.

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is a statutory local plan prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It establishes the detailed land-use policy framework for the extraction of all types of minerals and waste in the County, as well as reasoned justification for them.

Modal Shift

A change in the means of transport, for example from use of cars to public transport, particularly applied to all travellers within an area or those travelling to a specific type of facility or destination.

Monitoring

The process of collecting and checking information about what actually happens once a Plan or policy is implemented, to see whether changes need to be made to the Plan in response to changing circumstances.

Multi-Modal

Term applied to a number of regional Government transport studies that cover all types of transport and analyse how each can contribute to creating a more sustainable transport system.

Nature Conservation Strategy

A Borough Council strategy, adopted in 1992 that provides a detailed approach to nature conservation within Luton. It outlines specific targets and objectives towards preservation of natural areas, species protection, habitat creation and how all are protected under land management and the planning process.

Non-Conforming Uses

Established industrial/commercial uses, which cause a particular nuisance to neighbours (through either activities undertaken or the amount or type of traffic generated).

Park and Ride

Public transport stations where commuters leave their personal vehicles in a parking facility and transfer to a bus, rail, or other public transportation method. Such facilities are usually located at the edge of a town and provide easier access to the centre.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

See Planning Policy Statements (PPS).

Planning Policy Statements (PPS)

Planning Policy Statements (PPS), the replacements of Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), are produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) after public consultation to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system. They also explain the relationship between planning policies and other policies which influence issues of development and land use. Local authorities must take PPSs and PPGs into account when preparing their development plans.

Previously Developed Land

Previously developed land (PDL) or brownfield sites may require remedial works prior to redevelopment becoming possible.

Priority Area for Economic Regeneration (PAER)

Identified in Regional Planning Guidance 9, PAER's are areas featuring deprivation of regional significance for which tailored regeneration strategies are produced and implemented through a range of partnership and funding approaches.

Proposals Map

A statutory part of a Local Plan showing, in map form, where policies apply.

Public Transport Interchange

A location where it is possible to change between public transport services, which may be of a different type (e.g. between rail and bus at a railway station that adjoins a bus station).

Real-time Passenger Information Systems

Information on illuminated signs or video monitors about the running of a public transport service is relayed to passengers as it becomes available.

Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

Guidance to provide a framework for the preparation of local authority development plans.

Register of Historic Parks

A non-statutory list of parks and gardens of special historic interest maintained by English Heritage.

Renewable Energy

Energy obtained from natural resources that cannot be exhausted, for example from the sun, wind, tides and waves. Energy generated from combustible or digestible waste materials is also regarded as renewable.

SEA-Directive 2001/42/EC.

Sometimes referred to as Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a system of incorporating and assessing environmental issues into certain plans and programmes before they are adopted. Ratified by all the EU's member states in 2004, the directive typically applies to regional and local, development, waste and transport plans. Yet it also includes other concerns besides the environment, such as material assets and archaeological sites. Often synonymous with sustainability, it has been broadened further to include social and economic aspects of sustainability.

Section 106/Legal Agreement

Section 106 agreements are monies paid by developers to local planning authorities in order to offset the costs of the external effects of development.

Secured by Design Schemes

A nation-wide police initiative to encourage the building industry to adopt crime prevention measures in the design of developments. The goal of the initiative is to create a safer environment by reducing the opportunity of crime and the fear of crime.

Sequential Approach

As defined by PPS 6 Planning for Town Centres, the sequential approach requires retail developments to be located so that first preference is for locations in appropriate existing centres, taking account of an appropriate scale of development in relation to the role and function of the centre; and then edge-of-centre locations, with preference given to sites that are or will be well-connected to the centre; and then out-or-centre sites with preference given to sites which are or will be served by a choice of means of transport and which are close to the centre and have a high likelihood of forming links with the centre.

SERAS (South East Region Airport Study)

A study announced in March 1999 to assess the demand for airport capacity in the South East and East of England, consider options for how this might be addressed, and to appraise their economic, environmental and social implications. The findings from this study provided the Department for Transport with the background for The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East Consultation documents.

Single Regeneration Budget

Government scheme to support regeneration initiatives by the Community based on local needs. It covers activities to improve employment prospects, educations and the skills of local people; improve opportunities for disadvantaged people; improve local environments and housing; support local businesses and improve community safety. Locally it is administrated by the Luton and Dunstable Partnership who are responsible to the East of England Development Agency.

Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

Sites other than County Wildlife Sites (see above) that contribute to the biodiversity of Luton and its Green Network.

Sport Action Zone

An initiative to create an effective and sustainable sporting infrastructure in areas of high social and economic deprivation and ensure there is a more equitable participation in sport. Luton was one of the first twelve SAZ's in the country and covers 6 wards.

Strategic Planning Authority

Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council in their joint role as compilers/authors of the revised Structure Plan and the revised Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Structure Plan

Statutory document produced by County Councils outlining their strategy for development over 10-15 year periods.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

Guidance adopted by the District Council that supplements or is additional to the Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal

An assessment of a scheme or plan, which determines its compliance to the ideas of sustainable development. The UK's strategy for sustainable development, 'A Better Quality of Life,' outlined four objectives in terms of sustainable development:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- effective protection of the environment
- prudent use of natural resources
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Surface water drainage methods that take account of quantity, quality and amenity issues. They are more sustainable than conventional drainage methods because they manage runoff flow rates, protect or enhance water quality, provide habitat for wildlife in urban watercourses and are sympathetic to the environmental setting and community needs. They achieve this by dealing with runoff close to where the rain falls and protect water from point pollution, such as accidental spills.

Sustainable Living

The role a person plays in improving the environment through the choices they make and the way they live their daily lives.

Sustainable Transport

Forms or 'modes' of transport that impose fewer harmful environment costs on the local and global environments. Typically these modes include walking, cycling, public transport, rail and water based freight.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The current statutory basis for town planning in England and Wales, relating to the preparation of Development Plans and to general planning control.

Town and Country Planning Development Orders

Provision is made in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 for the Secretary of State to make Development Order which amongst other things includes granting of planning permission for certain classes of development, thus obviating the need for a planning application to the Local Planning Authority. The most recent consolidated Development Order was the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995.

Traffic Calming

The reduction of intrusive effects of motor vehicles, especially speed, by a co-ordinated series of measures including road humps, widening footways/pedestrian areas, planting trees and bushes, speed limits, etc.

Traffic Management Scheme

A scheme to promote more efficient traffic movement in a given area, and/or improve the area's environment, for example by rearranging traffic flows, controlling intersections and regulating times and places for parking.

Translink Guided Busway

A guided bus system proposed to provide frequent services between and within Luton and Dunstable and surrounding areas.

Transport Assessment

A study, normally provided by developers, which details accessibility to a site by all means of transport, the likely distribution of journeys by each of these modes, and proposed measures to improve access by public transport, walking and cycling, reduce the need for parking and mitigate transport impacts.

Transport Development Areas (TDAs)

Highly accessible locations within which development and transport objectives are integrated thereby ensuring efficient use of land, i.e. promoting the location of travel intensive land uses adjacent to major transportation interchanges.

Transport Nodes

Identified locations that provide greater integration of land uses with transportation requirements, particularly focusing on public transport networks.

Travel Plan

A package of measures usually put together by an employer, school or other body to encourage staff, pupils or patrons to travel by more sustainable modes of transport.

Travel Wise Campaign

A national partnership which raises awareness of the role individuals, businesses and schools can play in reducing pollution and congestion caused by cars.

Tree Preservation Order

Statutory protection for individual trees, groups, areas or woodlands. Any works to preserved trees require the consent of the planning authority.

Unitary Authority

Following Local Government reorganisation in 1997, a single tier system of local government was introduced in some non-metropolitan areas to replace the two-tier system of counties and districts. Luton Borough Council was established as a unitary authority, which means that, in the most part, it now deals independently with functions formerly performed by the County Council, within its own area.

Urban Regeneration

A process for enhancing the quality of life in urban areas through improvements in the vitality and viability of its activities and the quality of its environment together with a reduction in the disparities between areas and groups within the urban community.

Urban Renaissance

A vision for urban regeneration founded on the principles of design excellence, social well being, and environmental responsibility within a viable economic and legislative framework.

Viability

The ability to attract investment and business.

Vitality

The level of activity taking place.

Zero Carbon

Also called 'carbon neutral,' zero carbon means no carbon emissions from human activities.

Appendix A

Actions Speak Louder than Words

The Council's past and current actions in protecting the environment speaks for it's self in advocating its commitment to sustainable living and development in Luton. The Council has invested responsibly in promoting the ideology and concept that the social, economical and environment needs of the present do not compromise the ability of future generations in meeting their own needs.

Listed below are examples of environmental actions the Council has implemented or is in the process of implementing since the production of the first Environment Strategy in 1998.

1. Commitment to protecting the environment

- Enforcement of relevant environmental protection legislation and ensuring that Council activities comply with or exceed legal requirements.
- Raise awareness about its own activities that affect the environment and sustainable development by public consultation on new policies and developments (e.g. Local Plan, Traffic Management Schemes, and Waste Strategy). Also promote better understanding of important environment and sustainability issues through its partnership working. An example of this is the support it gives to the Luton Food Network and Community Supported Agriculture project.
- Introduction of new structures to encourage involvement of local people in decision-making such as Local Area Agreements.
- Collaboration with other agencies in promoting environmental management to local businesses.

2. Tackling Climate Change

Transport

- Submission of the annual Transport Policies and Programme based on an integrated transportation approach.
- Completion of walking and cycling strategies, which outlines the council's goals to increase the role of walking and cycling as modes of sustainable transport and set forth plans to create safer, more convenient, and more attractive pedestrian and biking facilities.
- Participation in the national Travel Wise campaign, which aims to reduce the use of the car and shift lifestyle behaviour to more sustainable modes of transport.

Energy

- Switch to Green electricity supplier (from renewable resources) for one hundred percent of Luton's street lighting and the town hall's electricity supply and 78% for other Council Buildings.
- Use of new monitoring software to set targets for a reduction in energy use in Council owned buildings.

3. Environment, health, and quality of life

Air Quality

- Pollution monitoring data provided on Luton's 'real time' monitoring of air quality.
- The creation of a purchasing policy, which avoids the use of products with CFCs and specifies non-toxic printing fluids.

Quality of Life

- M1 noise barrier installation achieved.
- Minimising dog fouling in parks and open spaces and public footpaths by introducing poop scoop areas, enforcing bylaws, controlling stray and dangerous dogs, and providing education on responsible dog ownership.
- Checking Council buildings (including the public sector housing stock) for existing asbestos – containing material and ensuring the making safe or safe removal of these materials.
- Programmes of inspection visits in relation to food, health, safety and housing.
- Provision of sports and leisure facilities and creating initiatives to improve access to and encourage participation in physical activity, recreation and sport – more people, more active, more often.
- Efficient response to reports of public health nuisance.
- Published information on healthy eating places at www.luton.gov.uk/foodscores
- To create a safer environment, A Safer Estates Agreement was produced with Bedfordshire Police.
- Increased budget for town cleaning programmes.
- Council support and encouragement to schools for environmental education given through the North Chilterns Trust and Millennium Trees Projects.
- Creation of the Street Seen programme, which works with local individuals to improve the environment of their neighbourhood.

4. Conserving our natural and built environment

Efficient use of land

- Production of supplementary planning guidance “Designing for Community Safety in a quality Environment” and “Designing for Sustainability.”
- Requirement of provision of appropriate areas of open space in new developments.
- Environmental impact assessment of new industry/ developments falling within the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.
- Contaminated Land Strategy in place.

Natural Heritage

- Creation of a robust system of County Wildlife Sites – increased from 7 to 21 in the last 5 years. These are the most important sites for nature conservation in the Borough.
- The Wardown Park Restoration Project was completed in June 2005, including restoring the historic boathouse, drinking fountain and Edwardian Daisy Chain.
- Qualitative Assessments of Local Parks and draft Parks Strategy produced.
- Improvement on the tree and hedgerow planting schemes in Country Wildlife Sites.
- Biodiversity Action plan produced for Bedfordshire and Luton jointly with Beds County Council.
- Educational initiatives to promote Luton’s natural and cultural heritage. Production of Luton’s living landscape leaflet and work with school children by John Dony Field Centre.

Built Heritage

- Approximately 15 building have been refurbished and restored in Conservation Areas through the Regeneration Programme funded through English Heritage, Single Regeneration Budget and European Regional Development Fund.

5. Using Resources wisely and effectively

Renewable energy

- Promotion of the benefits of energy efficiency through energy efficiency awareness training as a part of Luton's Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Follow Building Research Energy Conservation Support Unit (BRECSU) guidance regarding energy use in Council owned property.
- Establishment of an energy information service for local householders and businesses.
- Seeking new finance initiatives to encourage energy efficiency.
- Formulation of comprehensive purchasing policy, which has environmental protection as a main consideration. Inclusion of energy consumption as a factor in selecting new electrical equipment.
- Affordable Warmth Referral scheme established and managed successfully.

Waste Management

- Continued operation of a comprehensive household waste collection and disposal service to minimise waste and promote recycling.
- 100% kerbside recycling.
- Free bulky waste collection service and the recovery of re-usable and/or recyclable items.

- Free collection of abandoned vehicles.
- Promote the need for waste minimisation and uptake of recycling facilities through a proactive education role, including the publication of several informative leaflets on recycling services and benefits.
- Office paper recycling throughout council properties.
- 100% composting of green waste in parks to avoid the purchase of peat.
- Production of a comprehensive waste management strategy for the Borough.

Appendix B

Communications and Partnerships

The Borough Council works with a range of partners and stakeholders such as the Luton Assembly and Luton Forum. The Council advocates an integrated approach to the provision of services and departmental working.

A working group has been set up to implement and monitor the Action Plan, which is separate to this document. This is to ensure that the strategy is kept alive and that the principles of sustainable development are being adhered to. The monitoring of some specific targets will also take place through the Luton Forum.

It is hoped that the Council will be successful in employing an EMAS officer who will take responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the strategy and who will promote sustainability within the normal working practices of the Council.

Key Partners

Consultation partners include (in alphabetical order): -

1. Beds and Luton Wildlife Working Group
2. English Heritage
3. English Nature
4. Environment Agency
5. Environment and Sustainability Group of the Luton Forum
6. Friends of the Earth
7. Groundwork Trust

8. Luton Primary Care Trust
9. North Chilterns Trust (now part of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charities)
10. University of Luton

Appendix C

Documents available online

Agenda 21

<http://www.un.org/issues/docs/d-enviro.html>

Aviation White Paper: The Future of Air Transport

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_aviation/documents/divisionhomepage/029650.hcsp

Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan

<http://www.wildlifebcnp.org.uk/bedsbap/bllbap.htm>

Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2000-2015

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/BedsCC/SDmwp.nsf/Web/ThePage/Bedfordshire+and+Luton+Minerals+and+Waste+Local+Plan+2000+-+2015>

Bedfordshire Structure Plan

<http://www.bedsc.gov.uk/BedsCC/SDsps.nsf/Web/ThePage/Bedfordshire+Structure+Plan+2011>

Bus Strategy

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Council_government_and_democracy/Councils/Council%20Departments/Environment%20&%20Regeneration/Engineering%20&%20Transport/Parking%20services/Planning%20policies%20-%20transport%20policy%20Parking%20Strategy

Cycling Strategy (Luton)

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Transport_and_streets/Transport_planning/Transport%20strategies/Planning%20policies%20-%20transport%20policy%20Cycling%20Strategy

Designing for Sustainability – A summary of good practice

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Environment%20%26%20regeneration/Planning/Regional%20Planning/Sustainable%20Design%20Guide.pdf>

The Eddington Transport Study

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/39A/41/eddington_execsum11206.pdf

Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/policy-strategy/energy-white-paper/page21223.html>

European Union 6th Environmental Action Plan: Toward Sustainability

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>

European Union Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/thematicstrat/index.htm>

Housing Strategy

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Housing%20&%20social%20services/Freedom%20of%20Information%20Documents%20Store/Housing/Housing%20Strategy%20Statement.doc>

Local Transport Plan

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk>

London Luton Airport Annual Monitoring Report

<http://www.london-luton.co.uk/en/content.asp?area=4&id=1070>

London Luton Airport Masterplan, Project 2030

www.london-luton.co.uk/publications/project2030

Luton Annual Monitoring Report 2005/6

http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Environment%20%26%20regeneration/Planning/Local%20Plan/LDF%20Documents/AMR%202005_06_GOEAST.pdf

Luton's Contaminated Land Strategy

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Environment/Pollution/Land_pollution/Pollution%20control%20-%20contaminated%20land

Luton's Community Plan

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Environment%20&%20regeneration/Regeneration/LutonCommPlan2002-2012%20J.pdf>

Luton-Dunstable Local Transport Plan-Annual Progress Report

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/transport_and_streets/public_transport/public_transport_investment/local_transport_plan/Planning%20policies%20-%20transport%20policy%20The%20Luton-Dunstable%20Local%20Transport%20Plan%202001%20-%202006

Luton Local Plan 2001-2011

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/environment/planning/land_use_planning/Land%20use%20-%20proposals

Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy (SRS)

http://www.goeast.gov.uk/goee/docs/193680/234225/MKSM_Sub-Regional_Strategy.pdf

Nature Conservation Strategy

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/transport_and_streets/making%20a%20visible%20difference/parks_and_recreation/countryside/Conservation

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/community_and_living/Neighbourhood%20renewal

Open Space Study 2002

Contact fiona.robinson@southbeds.gov.uk

Parking Strategy

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Environment%20&%20regeneration/Engineering%20&%20Transportation%20/parking%20strategy.pdf>

Planning Policy Statement 1 Delivering Sustainable Development

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 13 Transport

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 14 Development on Unstable Land

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 22 Renewable Energy

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Policy Statement 23 Planning and Pollution Control

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143803>

Planning Sustainable Communities- A green infrastructure guide for Milton Keynes and the South Midlands

[http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/2005-07-04%20FINAL%20GI%20BROCHURE%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/2005-07-04%20FINAL%20GI%20BROCHURE%20(2).pdf)

Regeneration Strategy 2011

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/Media%20Library/Pdf/Environment%20%26%20regeneration/Regeneration/Business%20team/Reg%20Strat%20PDF%20for%20Web.pdf>

Regional Environment Strategy

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/RENS.pdf>

Regional Planning Guidance for the South East of England (RPG9)

<http://www.go-se.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/>

South Bedfordshire Local Plan Review

http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/Local_Plan/index.html

Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm

Walking Strategy

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Transport_and_streets/Transport_planning/Transport%20strategies/Planning%20policies%20-%20transport%20policy%20Walking%20Strategy

Waste Strategy

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/BedsCC/SDmwp.nsf/Web/ThePage/Waste+Strategy+for+Bedfords+hire+and+Luton>

Waste Strategy 2000 for England and Wales

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/waste/strategy/cm4693/index.htm>

UK's strategy for sustainable development, 'A Better Quality of Life'

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy99/index.htm>

Urban White Paper: Living Places-Cleaner, Safer, Greener

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1127639>