Making Luton a safer place in which to live, work, learn and have fun
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Foreword

Luton is a diverse town with a rich history, industrial heritage and culture.

This booklet is designed to be a single reference point with key information about the town, its economy, environment, and its people.

Luton has many achievements, including

- increasing its business base away from manufacturing to other industries, with many start up businesses, but also national and international companies moving to the town

- a wide range of regeneration within the town including business parks, the Mall and the new busway, along with investment from partners such as Bedfordshire University, and Northern and Shell (the Daily Express owners)

- celebration of its multicultural heritage, from the St Patricks Day festival to Luton Carnival, the Mela and Black History month

- increasing community participation, from volunteering to consultation

- raising the educational attainment of its students, helping to create a more qualified workforce.

Like other towns and communities around the country, Luton faces a series of challenges from a rising population to cuts in public services; increased partnership working across a wide range of public, voluntary and other agencies, even in difficult economic times, will help to address these and continue to make Luton a safer place to live, work, learn and have fun.
Strategic Vision for Luton

Luton’s Sustainable Community Strategy
The Luton Forum is a partnership of statutory and mainstream agencies, the voluntary and community sector and business representatives. It has a shared commitment to making Luton a better place to be an has developed a Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026 which will:

- inform people about Luton, its challenges, opportunities and priorities
- provide clear direction to develop policy with all partner agencies
- challenge all Luton Forum partners to deliver the vision.

Based on the Forum’s knowledge of Luton and informed by the aspirations of local people, the Strategy belongs to residents, partners and providers and describes the vision for Luton in 2026 and how it is intended to get there. Within the plan, there are four themed areas for delivering this shared vision:

Stronger and safer communities

Key priorities to 2014
- increasing the numbers of active citizens – people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed
- strengthening communities and building the capability and resources of community, voluntary and social enterprise groups to bring people together to work out shared solutions
- creating partnerships with public, private and voluntary and community sector bodies, willing and able to work as partners with local people
- reducing antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime, ensuring all people feel safe
- reducing crime including serious acquisitive crime, such as burglary, robbery, theft of a motor vehicle theft from a motor vehicle, along with domestic abuse, criminal damage and hate crime
- management of offenders to reduce the number of prolific and persistent offenders
- tackling alcohol and drug abuse
- improving road safety
- more well-designed, safer and accessible open spaces.

Health and wellbeing

Key priorities to 2014
- promoting healthy living and tackling the key risk factors which affect health
- focusing on prevention and early intervention
- supporting people to live independently
- improving housing conditions for existing and new housing
- improving mental health services
- improving services for carers
- improving leisure and cultural opportunities for all, and better access
- understanding that different service delivery will be necessary to ensure fair health and wellbeing outcomes for all.
Environment and economy

**Key priorities to 2014**
- successfully adapting and mitigating for climate change
- protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment, including our rivers and natural habitats within Luton’s green spaces
- reducing consumption of water, energy, materials and minimising waste, including support for renewable energy generation
- enhancing skills for employability and entrepreneurship and reducing differences in achievement levels between communities
- improving public transport, access and mobility and increasing travel to work by sustainable modes of transport, including public transport, walking and cycling
- increasing economic activity and good local jobs for local people by working with new and existing businesses and social enterprises and inward investors
- improving the amount and range of housing suitable for the needs of Luton’s existing and future residents.

Children and young people

**Key priorities to 2014**
- listening to the views of children and young people
- improving the health of children and young people
- ensuring children and young people in Luton are safe and well cared for
- supporting our children and young people to achieve skills and experience to enhance their prospects for the future
- reducing the differences in educational achievement between ethnic groups
- providing positive activities for young people and reducing antisocial behaviour
- better meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities/learning difficulties
- supporting Building Schools for the Future.

Each of these strands has specific aims but their realisation is very dependent on partnership working and their outcomes inextricably linked.

Delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy is underpinned by principles of equality, inclusion and cohesion and has a staged progression which will be achieved through shorter-term (three year) plans.

Eight partnership priorities have been designated to address the aims for 2011-2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnership Priority</th>
<th>Responsible Partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fewer people living in poverty</td>
<td>Children and Young People’s Trust Board/Health and Wellbeing Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More people, including those who are vulnerable, able to live independently</td>
<td>Health and Wellbeing Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased healthy life expectancy</td>
<td>Health and Wellbeing Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved educational attainment for children and young people</td>
<td>Children and Young People’s Trust Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of people with appropriate skills, helping business create the jobs that lead to employment</td>
<td>Employment, Innovation and Enterprise Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A reduction in serious crime and the fear it causes</td>
<td>soLUTiONs Community Safety Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An improved and sustained natural and built environment</td>
<td>Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger community cohesion across the town</td>
<td>Stronger Communities Executive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All about Luton

Overview of the town

A rich history
Luton has a rich history the town’s foundation dates back to the sixth century as a Saxon outpost on the River Lea from which Luton derives its name. Even though the Domesday Book revealed Luton’s economic mainstay at the time as agriculture, the town has pioneered industry from hats to head gaskets. Luton’s hat manufacturing industry marketed hats across continents and in the early 20th century, a variety of multinational companies moved headquarters here including Laporte, Skefco, Electrolux and Vauxhall Motors.

Vital industry
Vauxhall’s initial operations in Luton were rather modest until the company was bought by General Motors in 1925. The 1950s and 1960s were boom years for Vauxhall; the company paid good wages and its expansion aided Luton’s growth, attracting new residents from across the UK and the Commonwealth. However, the national decline of the motor industry from the 1970s led finally to car production ceasing at Vauxhall’s Luton headquarters in 2002. With commercial vehicle manufacture also under threat, the flexible and proactive approach of local van workers culminated in the 2011 announcement that new Vivaro vans would be produced in Luton, safeguarding more than 6,000 jobs.

Economic diversification
Luton’s declining manufacturing base required Luton to diversify. The private sector took the lead in developing Capability Green, a business park at the edge of Luton Hoo estate which helped to attract high quality, ‘blue chip’ companies such as Selex Galileo (BAe Systems), AstraZeneca, Ernst & Young and the new headquarters of Thomson (TUI) at nearby Wigmore. Luton Borough Council also led other private sector initiatives to help develop the Butterfield Business and Technology Park which has attracted over 100 new high-tech knowledge based start-ups.

Luton’s national and international transport links, vibrant communities, skilled workforce, close proximity to markets and a proactive local authority mean that it has scored significant economic successes. Most recently, Northern and Shell, the Daily Express owners, invested £100 million in a printworks, creating up to 900 jobs.

Luton Airport
Luton’s biggest economic asset is London Luton Airport. Its nine million passengers a year make it the UK’s fifth biggest airport after Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester. The new terminal building was opened in 1999 and together with the airport’s compact nature, short taxiways and excellent public transports links, it is highly environmentally sustainable in comparison to other airports. Without having to build any new runways, London Luton Airport has significant scope to expand to handle a further 181 million passengers a year. The airport site is already the largest employer in Luton and with each additional million people that the airport handles, around 1,000 jobs are created, underlining its importance to Luton’s economy and that of the surrounding area.

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1 London Luton Airport Revised Masterplan, September 2012
Education
Luton has the highest proportion of school age children in the country and the figure is expected to increase. Fifty-eight percent of children aged 0-15 in Luton are of BME origin. While increasing academic attainment is the stated aim for all Luton’s schools, our pupils have already made real strides. In 2011, secondary school level educational attainment in Luton was slightly higher than the national figure for 5 or more grades A*-G. Young people in the town can be inspired by the notion that people such as Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, the pioneer of DNA fingerprinting, attended Luton Sixth Form College, England’s first such college, which has just undergone a £56 million redevelopment and educates 2,300 students.

The University of Bedfordshire has added to Luton’s diversity and skills base by attracting students from over 100 countries. In 2012 it will have invested £140 million in new facilities including a new campus centre and halls of residence. A £16 million postgraduate and continuing professional development centre will open in 2013.

Shopping and retail
Shopping in Luton is dominated by the Mall, which comprises many national chains. While close to the centre of Luton, Bury Park and High Town provide local shopping specific to the communities they serve.

The Mall first opened in 1972 and was extended in 2011 and now boasts 135 stores based on two levels across almost 80,000m², with parking for 2,500 vehicles.

George Street is Luton’s historic ‘high street’ running through the centre of Luton. Shops and stores on the east side conjoin with The Mall and the street forms a retail focal point with many independent stores and restaurants in the streets leading from it. There are around approximately 249 shops and retailers in the town centre area, including a range of restaurants. St George’s Square sits at one end of George Street next to the Town Hall providing an open space for shoppers to meet and relax, and showcases the modern entrance to The Mall.

Luton Market has its own section as part of the Mall. The market numbers 78 stalls selling items ranging from food to textiles, consumer and household goods.

Compared to the centre of Luton, High Town is a quieter, traditional area of small shops and Victorian terraced houses. The shop fronts along High Town road have recently been refurbished in a style befitting its Victorian heritage.

Bury Park is located one mile north west of the centre of Luton on the road to Dunstable. Since the mid-1970s, a large Muslim Pakistani and Bangladeshi community has grown and Bury Park is now the home of a purpose built mosque. It has a large commercial area specialising in fruit, vegetables and Asian clothing in addition to a significant number of restaurants. It is also home to Luton Town Football Club.

Other local shopping areas provide for the shopping needs of local residents including Leagrave, Stopsley, Chaul End, Gypsy Lane and Limbury.
Culture
Luton’s expanding population has enriched its culture. The Luton Carnival takes place annually on the May Spring Bank Holiday; the largest carnival in the country after Notting Hill and the largest one-day carnival in Europe. The diversity of Luton is celebrated in other events throughout the year. Luton’s St Patrick’s Day celebrations are the largest regionally. St George’s Day features Morris and Maypole dancing, and the Luton Mela held each summer is the largest celebration of South Asian culture in the East of England.

New Lutonians
Luton’s main strength is Lutonians themselves. In 1952, Luton’s population stood at just over 100,000, yet the origins of Luton’s residents were already surprisingly varied. Barely half were Luton-born, with substantial percentages from London, the great South East, as well as Scotland, Wales, the North and the Midlands. In the 1950s, Eastern European refugees arrived, many as a result of the uprisings in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, as well as substantial numbers from Ireland. Many Irish were involved in the construction of Luton’s growing housing estates and the national motorway infrastructure. By 1971, six per cent of Luton’s population was Irish born. Since then, the arrival of new Lutonians from all over the world has provided the biggest impact on Luton, enriching its culture and society, and creating the super diverse town we see today.

Voluntary groups and community campaigns
There are over 550 voluntary and community groups in Luton, 381 of which are registered with Luton Borough Council which embrace a breadth of issues and interests. These groups range from local branches of national organisations to small local special interest groups.

Luton in Harmony
Luton in Harmony is a campaign supported by the Luton Forum aimed at drawing Luton’s communities together. The campaign wishes to strengthen the message that Luton’s communities will challenge violent extremist ideology, wherever it comes from, and unite in supporting, giving voice to, and celebrating Luton’s diversity. As part of the campaign, many people across the town have been motivated to speak out against division and negativity and many positive events have taken place such as the Luton Council of Faiths’ Faith Walk. Luton in Harmony was launched in 2010.

Social justice
Luton has faced, and generally overcome, a number of challenges to cohesion over recent years. Although these have involved relatively small numbers of people, the impact has been real and the image and reputation of Luton as a cohesive town has been undermined. The Social Justice Framework is a significant piece of work that has involved a wide range of partners, community groups and individuals. At a time of austerity and Central Government cuts to public services, it is vitally important we ensure all our efforts are sharply focussed on the needs of Luton’s citizens and we work together as organisations and communities to build on the strengths of our diverse town.

Location
Luton is a town situated 30 miles north of central London. According to the Office for National Statistics, the resident\(^2\) population of Luton stands at 205,900 people. The population has been rising steadily since 2004.

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\(^2\) As per UN definition: The estimated resident population of an area includes all people who usually live there, whatever their nationality. People arriving into an area from outside the UK are only included in the population estimates if their total stay in the UK is 12 months or more. Visitors and short-term migrants (those who enter the UK for 3 to 12 months for certain purposes) are not included. Similarly, people who leave the UK are only excluded from the population estimates if they remain outside the UK for 12 months or more.
Luton Wards
Luton is divided into 19 wards as are shown in the map below.
Councillors
Luton’s councillors are elected every four years. The results of the 2011 council elections in Luton were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Democrat</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
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The Leader of the Council is Councillor Hazel Simmons and the Mayor, elected for a one year term, is Councillor Syd Knight who represents Sundon Park ward. The next Council elections will take place in 2015.

Luton Borough Council is administered by a cabinet system. The cabinet members are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Simmons</td>
<td>Lewsey</td>
<td>Executive Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sian Timoney</td>
<td>Farley</td>
<td>Deputy Leader, Regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Harris</td>
<td>Farley</td>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Taylor</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waheed Akbar</td>
<td>Leagrave</td>
<td>Children’s Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed Ashraf</td>
<td>Dallow</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Shaw</td>
<td>Challney</td>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahmood Hussain</td>
<td>Farley</td>
<td>Adult Social Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Roden</td>
<td>Leagrave</td>
<td>Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naseem Ayub</td>
<td>Biscot</td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
</tr>
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Recent Council led achievements
Luton Borough Council has taken a leading role in Luton’s regeneration, promoting a number of key projects that have helped to transform the centre and improve local transport links, improving private sector confidence and attracting new prestige business and investment.

- **Luton and Dunstable Busway** – work is now underway on the specially constructed £89 million guideway from Houghton Regis to Dunstable to the centre of Luton and then on to London Luton Airport via Luton’s two main railway stations. The Busway will be vital in Luton’s ability to deliver new growth.
- **Regeneration of St George’s Square** – the award winning £2.2 million transformation of St George’s Square has provided a significant public space. The Council led the investment project which was funded solely by private funds and was completed in 2007.
- **Butterfield Business and Technology Park** – built in the north east of Luton amidst the Chiltern Hills, this high-tech business park incorporates an award winning £18.5 million Innovation Centre and Business Base (ICBB). The ICBB provides more than 100 affordable small business units for offices, studios or workshops.

The Council is also involved with several planned projects that will enhance Luton, provide improved leisure and retail facilities, offer new housing and offices, and make a significant injection into the local economy with new jobs, infrastructure and further regeneration:
Century Park – a large employment site to the east of the London Luton Airport. The development involves a new road, combined with a land swap deal between the airport and Century Park, enabling the long term expansion of the airport which alone could provide 20,000 jobs. It is proposed that the infrastructure investment would be funded through Tax Increment Financing, and Luton Borough Council is currently promoting this scheme to Government.

Inspire: Luton Sports Village – opened in August 2012, the £26 million aquatic centre in Stopsley includes a 50 metre pool, a world-class diving pool and seating for 400 spectators. There is also a community pool, gym, sports hall and dance studio.

Napier Park – this is a wholly sustainable mixed-use urban regeneration scheme 1.6 km from the centre of Luton based on the 56 acre former Vauxhall car plant site. The £400 million development was given permission in 2009 and is awaiting formal construction to start.

Power Court – the proposed £200 million development will effectively extend the centre of Luton to the west. Co-owner British Land is working with Luton Borough Council to draw up plans for the site’s development and will provide a high quality mixed use retail and leisure development as well as housing.

Westminster
At Westminster, Luton is represented by the two constituencies of Luton North and Luton South.

Luton North is formed from electoral wards entirely within the boundaries of Luton that include: Barnfield, Bramingham, Challney, Icknield, Leagrave, Lewsey, Northwell, Saints and Sundon Park. In December 2010, the electorate numbered 66,273. Kelvin Hopkins MP (Labour) has held the Luton North seat since first being elected in 1997.

Luton South is formed from electoral wards entirely within the boundaries of the borough of Luton, as well as part of one ward from neighbouring Central Bedfordshire. From Luton this consists of: Biscot, Crawley, Dallow, Farley, High Town, Round Green, South, Stopsley and Wigmore; and from Central Bedfordshire: Caddington, Hyde and Slip End. In December 2010, the electorate numbered 65,889. Gavin Shuker MP (Labour) was elected for the first time in 2010.

Population of Luton
Population of Luton, 2004-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>182,900</td>
<td>184,300</td>
<td>184,700</td>
<td>187,200</td>
<td>190,500</td>
<td>194,300</td>
<td>198,800</td>
<td>203,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

*Luton Borough Council is in dispute over these figures and considers the population to be approximately 205,900. This figure is arrived at from analysis of those registered with a GP, child benefit data claimants and those registering to work in Luton from overseas. The LBC population estimate was corroborated by research by Mayhew Harper Associates who estimated that the minimum confirmed population of Luton was 202,700.

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1. 2004-2010 Mid Year Population Estimates were revised by the ONS in June 2011.
2. 2011 Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS September 2012
3. Based on those residing in the borough irrespective of length of stay
The town is ethnically diverse, with approximately 35 per cent\(^7\) of the population being of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)\(^8\) origin, with significant Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian and African Caribbean communities. Twenty per cent of the population was born outside the UK and the proportion is increasing. A recent school census\(^9\) showed that fewer than 58 per cent of pupils of compulsory school age and above are of BME origin.

In recent years the diversity of the population has increased with foreign students coming to the University of Bedfordshire. There has been a significant shift in the population over recent years, primarily driven by those arriving from newly EU acceded A8 countries of Eastern Europe. Since May 2004, there have been over ten thousand new National Insurance registrations by people from A8 countries, with over 80 per cent of these coming from individuals whose country of origin is Poland. The amount of people registering from Eastern Europe fell in the last year but there has been a significant increase in those registering from India. There has also been a growing population from African countries such as Congo and Zimbabwe.

The Borough has a higher birth rate than the national average contributing to a total fertility rate\(^10\) (TFR) of 2.33 in 2010 compared with 2.00 nationally.

The Standardised Mortality Ratio\(^11\) for Luton is higher than the national ratio, at 103 in 2010. The net overall effect of births and deaths is positive in terms of population figures.

The latest projections of the population\(^12\) of Luton indicate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The population of Luton is projected to rise from 204,750 in 2010 to 220,350 in 2030, a rise of 8 per cent.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The amount of 5-15 year olds is projected to rise from 31,700 in 2010 to 36,700 in 2020, a rise of 16 per cent in a decade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The amount of older people (65+) is projected to rise from 28,050 in 2010 to 35,550 in 2030, a rise of 27 per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The pre-school and working age populations will be more stable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Pakistani and Bangladeshi populations are projected to rise by approximately one third between 2010 and 2030.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^7\) Source: 2001 Census  
\(^8\) Black and Ethnic Minority Population defined as all those who are not of White British origin  
\(^9\) Dept of Education, School Census – England 2010 (data from maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools)  
\(^10\) This is the average number of children that would be born per woman if women experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.  
\(^11\) Indexed mortality figures  
\(^12\) Luton Population projections 2010-2030, Luton Borough Council
The projected population of Luton 2010-2030

Education
Schooling in Luton
As of January 2010, in Luton local authority area there were:

• 6 maintained nursery schools
• 51 maintained primary schools
• 10 maintained secondary schools
• 3 maintained special schools
• 2 pupil referral units
• 10 independent schools
• 2 academies.

There were:

• 19,160 pupils in maintained primary schools
• 12,290 pupils in maintained secondary schools
• 310 pupils in special schools
• 1,020 pupils in independent schools.

Source: Luton Borough Council, Education Unit

Secondary school level educational attainment in Luton is slightly higher than the national figure (all schools) at 95.10 per cent for 5 or more grades A*-G.
Qualifications amongst the working age population are generally lower in Luton than those observed nationally. Sixteen per cent of people have no qualifications in the borough, compared with 11 per cent nationally.

Analysis of qualifications by age reveals that those aged 50 and over are more likely to have no qualifications than the other age groups. The 50+ category are also more likely to have a trade apprenticeship than either of the other groups. More than a quarter of those aged 25-49 have NVQ Level 4 (and over).

Higher Education
Some 22,500 students study at the University of Bedfordshire with more than 12,000 taught at the Luton campus. The University of Bedfordshire contributes a massive £300m to the local economy. Its growing global reputation for high quality teaching, excellent employability record and strong student support attracts students from over 100 countries. In 2011 it won the Queen’s Award for Enterprise: International Trade for its outstanding achievement in increasing its overseas income by 154 per cent over three years and producing an aggregate of £54m over that period. International students have a positive impact on Luton, bringing millions of pounds a year to the local economy.

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13 Comprising people aged 16-64
Housing
Land registry data show that the average house price in Luton is £126,185 which is below the national figure of £160,372.

House Price Index\textsuperscript{14}: Average Price\textsuperscript{15} – Luton and England and Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>All England &amp; Wales</th>
<th>Luton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index</td>
<td>Average Price (£)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-08</td>
<td>289.3</td>
<td>180,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-09</td>
<td>243.6</td>
<td>151,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-10</td>
<td>263.2</td>
<td>164,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-11</td>
<td>258.8</td>
<td>161,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-12</td>
<td>257.3</td>
<td>160,372</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: House Price Index, Land Registry

Average house prices in Luton steadily increased for a number of years up to a peak in 2008. They then fell in 2009 rose in 2010, before falling again to date. House prices are below the national average.

In Luton the average price of a detached property is £247,405; semi-detached is £146,083; terraced is £112,315 and a maisonette/flat is £77,761.

Unemployment
Although Luton follows the national trend, unemployment in Luton is higher than that observed nationally or regionally. As at April 2012, the unemployment rate is 4.9 per cent in Luton, 4.0 per cent nationally (GB) and 3.2 per cent in the East of England region.

\textsuperscript{14} Seasonally Adjusted House Price Index (HPI) with base period of Jan 1995 = 100
\textsuperscript{15} All average prices quoted in this report represent standardised seasonally adjusted prices
The majority (65 per cent) of all those unemployed in Luton are men. In fact, the unemployment rate amongst male and female residents is markedly different, with 6.1 per cent of men unemployed compared with 3.6 per cent of women. This gender difference is also in keeping with the national and regional trend although figures for Luton are higher.

### Unemployment by Gender, April 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>4,187</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>1,047,866</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>78,035</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Claimant Count Unemployment for April 2012, via NOMIS
Residence based (not seasonally adjusted)

25.5 per cent of all claimants in Luton are aged 24 and under and 26.3 per cent of claimants have been claiming for more than 12 months. Youth unemployment is proportionally lower than the national and regional figures but long term unemployment is proportionally higher in Luton.

### Unemployment by Age and Duration, April 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aged 24 and under</th>
<th>Claiming for over 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>453,920</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>33,945</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Claimant Count Unemployment for April 2012, via NOMIS
Residence based (not seasonally adjusted)
Employment

The Annual Population Surveys estimates the number of jobs including those who are employees, self-employed, Government-supported trainees and in HM Forces. The number of jobs in an area is composed of jobs done by residents of any age and jobs done by workers of any age who commute into the area.

Total Number of Jobs, 2005 - 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>99,000</td>
<td>98,000</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>30,539,000</td>
<td>30,339,000</td>
<td>30,667,000</td>
<td>30,689,000</td>
<td>30,266,000</td>
<td>30,235,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>2,773,000</td>
<td>2,807,000</td>
<td>2,807,000</td>
<td>2,813,000</td>
<td>2,789,000</td>
<td>2,770,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Jobs Density, via NOMIS
Total job estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand

There has been a consistent increase in the total number of jobs in the borough from 2002-2005 but a decline from 2005. Latest figures show there are 91,000 jobs in Luton.

Jobs Density, 2005 – 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Jobs Density, via NOMIS

The total number of jobs as a proportion of the working age population, those aged 16-64 divided by the mid year population estimate, gives ‘jobs density’. The density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to working-age population. A jobs density of 1.0 indicates there is one job for every resident of working age in the town. A jobs density of more than 1.0 indicates there is more than one job per resident of working age and a density of less than one indicates there are fewer jobs than working age residents.

Luton’s job density had been increasing from 2002 to 2005 but has fallen between 2006 and 2010 and currently stands at 0.69. The current figure is lower than the regional and national ratio. Jobs density is calculated using the mid-year population estimates and it is considered this is underestimating Luton’s population. Due to this, the jobs density in Luton may in fact be lower.

The number of employee jobs in Luton stands at 80,100 jobs during 2010, a decrease of 2,700 jobs from the previous year.

Employee Jobs full time, part time split, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full Time</th>
<th>Part Time</th>
<th>% Full Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>55,700</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td>69.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>1,536,300</td>
<td>809,200</td>
<td>65.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>17,663,100</td>
<td>8,419,200</td>
<td>67.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey, rounded to nearest hundred

Seventy per cent of all employee jobs in Luton are held on a full time basis. This is slightly higher than the national and regional average.
Employee Jobs in Luton by Industry

Percentage of employee jobs by industry 2008

In 1998, 24 per cent of employees in Luton were in the manufacturing sector. This fell to 13 per cent of employees in 2008. The largest employer in Luton in 2008 was public administration, health and education with 24 per cent of employees.

Major firms
As the economy has diversified, Luton has been successful in attracting new high-tech and service sector firms. Some of the largest employers in Luton include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Business Activity</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
<td>Local authority</td>
<td>9000+16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luton &amp; Dunstable Hospital</td>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>2000-4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selex Galileo (BAe Systems)</td>
<td>Defence manufacturer</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EasyJet Plc</td>
<td>Passenger air transport/Head Office</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBC Vehicles</td>
<td>Vehicle manufacturers</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Motors UK</td>
<td>Vehicle manufacturers/Head Office</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUI (UK) Ltd</td>
<td>Tour operator/Head Office</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bedfordshire</td>
<td>Higher education provider</td>
<td>1000-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca Ltd</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical manufacturer</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnfield Federation</td>
<td>Secondary/further education provider</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InBev UK Ltd</td>
<td>Beer manufacturer/Head Office</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Luton Airport</td>
<td>Service activities for air transport</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Airlines</td>
<td>Passenger air transport</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson Airlines</td>
<td>Passenger air transport</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bedfordshire</td>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitbread Group Plc</td>
<td>Restaurants/Head Office</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register, Office for National Statistics, 2010

16 This is now estimated to be around 6000+ (2012)
**Earnings**

Data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) shows average earnings in Luton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence Based</th>
<th>Workplace Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luton</td>
<td>24,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>26,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>27,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics*

The average earnings for people living in Luton is £24,873 which is below the national average of £26,244. However the average earnings for people working in Luton but not necessarily living in Luton is £26,686 which is higher than the national average. This is the reverse of the regional trend where residence based earnings are higher than workplace based earnings.

**Economy**

Luton contributes £4,242 million\(^{17}\) to the national economy. Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population stands at £21,829. GVA per head index shows that in 2009 Luton was nine percentage points above the national average. GVA declined between 2008 and 2009 in Luton which mirrored the national and regional trend.

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) is the amount of money that individuals have left to spend after deductions such as taxation, property and social contributions i.e. the amount they have left to save or invest. The Office for National Statistics published the latest GDHI for the regions and sub-regions of the UK in April 2012. These data run from 1997-2010 and are not adjusted for inflation.

**Key points**
- In 2010 Luton’s GDHI per head was £12,338, which grew by 1.1 per cent between 2009 and 2010
- Luton’s GDHI per head is 22 per cent lower than the UK average
- Luton has the lowest GDHI per head in the East region
- Luton is ranked 127th out of 139 local areas in the UK, this ranking has been falling as Luton was ranked 94th in 2004
- Luton’s household income has been falling in relation to the national average since 2005

**Deprivation**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produce indices of deprivation nationally. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation have been produced at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level, of which there are 32,482 in the country.

The 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were published in March 2011. Luton is ranked as the 69th (out of 326) most deprived local authority. In 2007 Luton was ranked as the 87th most deprived local authority and in 2004 as the 101st (out of 354 authorities). This indicates that Luton is becoming relatively more deprived in comparison to the other local authorities of England.

\(^{17}\)Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009 Gross Value Added (GVA) at current basic prices (published 2011).
Luton has nine output areas in the top ten per cent most deprived areas in the country. Two of these are in Biscot, Dallow and Northwell wards and one each in Farley, High Town and South wards. Luton has one LSOA in the top ten per cent least deprived areas and that is in Bramingham.

**Building stronger and safer communities**

Luton’s Community Safety Partnership, soLUTiONs, is a statutory partnership of organisations which work together in the town to address crime, antisocial behaviour (ASB), drug and alcohol problems and (re)offending behaviour (Annexe A provides further details about the membership of the Partnership). The Partnership believes that by working together, it can tackle some of the most deep seated crime and disorder problems affecting Luton.

The vision for the soLUTiONs’ Partnership is:

*To make Luton a safer place in which to live, work, learn and have fun.*

A place where:
- levels of crime, ASB, drug and alcohol problems are reducing year on year below the national average
- local communities are engaged in problem solving and feel confident and safer – free from the fear of crime and ASB
- underlying causes of crime and ASB are identified and tackled directly
- crime prevention is promoted and properly resourced
- offenders are appropriately punished and their behaviour managed to reduce re-offending
- victims are well supported.
soLUTiONs has set out its approach to tackling crime and ASB in its Partnership Plan which is refreshed annually with new priorities to reflect the changing nature of crime and ASB in the town. It intends to produce a new three year plan in April 2013 which will link to the five year Police and Crime Plan of the new Commissioner. The Partnership is mindful of its work in the context of the longer term ‘stronger and safer’ priorities as set out in Luton’s Sustainable Community Strategy as well as other delivery plans and liaison with thematic partners.

soLUTiONs is in the process of launching the second Luton Domestic Abuse Strategy which outlines the aims and commitments of member agencies across Luton over a three year period from 2012-2015 in relation to reducing domestic abuse and improving services for those affected by it. Domestic abuse is a recognised priority for the Partnership which acknowledges the significance of domestic abuse for the people of Luton and reflects the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which highlighted the impact of domestic abuse on those living in the town.

The Partnership is also committed to taking a clear and co-ordinated approach to tackle extremism in the town.

There is collaboration with partners in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Council with regard to borough wide initiatives which support local priorities:

- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) which tackles prolific offenders through intensive programmes combining rehabilitation and enforcement
- The Emerald Centre, a dedicated centre providing extensive support to men and women aged 13 years and over who have been raped or sexually assaulted
- SARAC (Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference) process which identifies and supports high risk victims of rape and sexual assault.
Crime picture in Luton

Over the past two years (comparing 1st September 2010 – 31st August 2011 to 1st September 2011 – 31st August 2012) the overall level of crime in Luton decreased by 5 per cent (a decrease of 941 offences ie 17,398 to 16,457 offences). Over a five year period, levels of crime are following an overall downward trend as can be seen below.\(^{18}\)

All crime 1st September 2007 – 31st August 2012

![Graph showing crime levels from 2007 to 2012]

Luton’s comparative performance against similar community safety partnerships (as measured by the Home Office\(^{19}\)) remains favourable.

While our performance in relation to overall crime has improved over the past year, our performance over the same time period against various individual crime types has been mixed. Looking across the two year time period (1st September 2010 – 31st August 2011 to 1st September 2011 – 31st August 2012) there were reductions across the following crime types:

- criminal damage = -7% (a reduction of 193 offences ie 2,765 down to 2,572)
- domestic burglary = -14% (a reduction of 252 offences ie 1,848 down to 1,596)
- violence against the person = -14% (a reduction of 529 offences ie 3,714 down to 3,185)
- theft of a motor vehicle = -1% (a reduction of 5 offences ie 441 down to 436)
- shoplifting = -2% (a reduction of 35 offences ie 1,657 down to 1,622)

\(^{18}\) solutions Community Safety Partnership, October 2012

\(^{19}\) www.iquanta.net
There have been increases in:

- robbery = +28% (an increase of 123 offences ie 444 up to 567)
- theft from a motor vehicle = +5% (an increase of 64 offences ie 1,388 up to 1,452)
- arson = +6% (an increase of 8 offences ie 125 up to 133)
- sexual offences = +6% (an increase of 10 offences ie 163 up to 173)

Over the same time period we have also seen a substantial reduction in ASB incidents across the town. Comparing the two years there was a 3 per cent reduction in ASB which equates to 439 fewer incidents ie 13,514 incidents down to 13,075 incidents.

Over the last year the soLUTiONs Partnership has supported, delivered or commissioned a range of projects and initiatives to tackle crime and ASB across the borough, and some of these are summarised below.

**Town Centre**

- Established a multi-agency strategic group to reduce crime, improve safety and build public and business confidence in the Night Time Economy (NTE).
- Provided financial support for a range of NTE interventions: SOS Bus, Street Pastors and Taxi Marshalling.
- Awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Home Office for the SOS Bus in the prestigious Tilley Awards.
- Relaunched the Luton Businesses Against Crime initiative.
- Established a new town centre and retail crime policing team.
- Reviewed the CCTV provision and funded new cameras.
- Ran alcohol test purchasing operations and issued fixed penalty notices for underage sales.
- Working with the police and Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum, ensured there was minimal crime and disorder in Luton town centre during the EDL march in February 2011.

**Neighbourhoods adjacent to the town centre**

- Undertook burglary enforcement operations in neighbourhoods adjacent to town centre.
- Supported the Bobby Van scheme to install security improvements to 251 homes of burglary victims and 214 victims of domestic abuse; a further 465 households had improved security to prevent them becoming victims of crime.
- Installed two gating schemes with further planned.
- Developed a multi-agency action plan to tackle the on street sex trade in Luton.
- Regular deployment of temporary CCTV cameras to hotspot locations.
- Delivered a range of environmental ASB campaigns, and brought 18 successful prosecutions for fly-tipping.

**Offenders between 15 and 19 years (including re-offenders)**

- Undertook extensive preparations with partners to ensure there were no riots in Luton in August 2011.
- Continued to provide a range of youth diversionary activities.
- Implemented the ‘I am more than .....’ campaign to dispel negative stereotypes of young people.
- Established new ‘Channel’ arrangements to safeguard those who could be vulnerable to radicalisation.
Prevention and support to vulnerable victims

• Launched the new Priority ASB Team - a new victim centred case management service to those who are most vulnerable.
• Provided independent support to victims of ASB via a specialist service provided through the SLP charity and Victim Support.
• Expanded the Independent Domestic Violence Advice Service from three to five IDVAs.
• Worked with the British Red Cross, Victim Support and Bedfordshire Police to launch a new Distraction Burglary project.
• Produced a domestic abuse analytical profile.
• Supported the opening of the Emerald Centre (the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Bedfordshire).
• Continued to support the development of the Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Service and the Sexual Abuse Risk Assessment Conference for the county.

Reducing re-offending

• Established the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) service in Bedfordshire, incorporating a new Prolific and Priority Offenders Intensive scheme.
• 96 prolific offenders from Luton are on the IOM scheme.
• Introduced Caring Dads – a parenting programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
• Continued to support the Police’s perpetrator scheme focusing on enforcement action on the most serious domestic abuse offenders.
• 4,297 hours of community payback completed in Luton.

Drugs and alcohol

• Implemented a new drugs strategy.
• The number of people leaving treatment drug free has increased and is above target for the year.
• Luton has the lowest represent rate (clients returning to treatment within six months) in the region.
• The introduction of ‘brief advice’ for alcohol has significantly increased the number of people coming into alcohol treatment, now the highest increase in the region.
• The successful completion rate for alcohol treatment is currently 55 per cent which matches the national average.

Building public confidence

• Commissioned the award winning Farley Green Skills project to promote inter-generational working and prevent ASB.
• Continued to support Neighbourhood Watch to further develop their network of schemes in Luton.
• Hosted the annual soLUTIONs Public Summit attended by over 200 local people.

Luton’s community safety priorities 2012/13

Over the next year, soLUTIONs will deliver a set of refreshed priorities. These focus on the elements of the problem analysis triangle - namely locations, offenders and victims.

Locations

• Town Centre – focusing on night time economy (NTE) related offences, shoplifting in The Mall and robbery.
• Neighbourhoods adjacent to the town centre - South (not including the town centre), Dallow, High Town and Biscot) – focusing on burglary, violent crime, ASB and robbery.
• Marsh Farm – focusing on environmental ASB, deliberate fires and public perception of crime and ASB.
Offenders

- Reducing re-offending across all age groups.
- Offenders aged between 14 and 21 years.

Victims

- Prevention and support to vulnerable victims – focusing on the victims of ASB and the victims of domestic abuse across Luton.

All of these priorities were developed in consultation with partners, following a detailed strategic assessment produced for the soLUTiONS Partnership using a range of different criteria such as:

- crime trends
- seriousness of the offences
- comparing Luton’s performance to our ‘most similar group’ (a group of 14 similar areas as identified by the Home Office)
- key National Indicators
- British Crime Survey results
- fear of crime and community consultation
- neighbourhood policing priorities
- existing partnership priorities.

These priorities were considered and endorsed at the soLUTiONS Annual Public Summit in November 2011. The vast majority of participants (62 per cent) fully agreed with the priorities and, the remaining 38 per cent partially agreed with them.

How soLUTiONS will address these priorities

The partnership will use its refreshed soLUTiONS Partnership structure, as documented in Annexe B, alongside a range of delivery plans for ASB, IOM, serious and priority crime, Prevent, the NTE and domestic abuse, to ensure these new priorities are delivered. It will continue to run a monthly partnership tasking process which covers key short term actions, and links with the Police’s tasking regime.

All of the action plans will continue to underpin the community safety objectives within Luton 2026 – the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council’s Corporate Plan, the Police’s Strategic Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Children’s and Youth People’s Plan, the Luton Domestic Abuse Strategy and Community Involvement Strategy.

Actions will continue to cover the following activities:

- Prevention (P)
- Intelligence gathering (I)
- Enforcement (E)
- Reassurance (R)

As in the previous partnership plan, soLUTiONS will continue try to reduce the fear of crime and address drug and alcohol problems. It will also take a clear and co-ordinated approach to tackle extremism in the town.
Supporting victims and making people feel safer continues to be a focus for soLUTiONs. Engaging with local communities to understand the issues and problems they face and working with them to develop the most appropriate interventions will remain a key part of its work and will be achieved through the use of a range of different mechanisms, including the Community Involvement Strategy and Neighbourhood Governance process.

Ensuring a sustainable approach to problem solving is something all partners endorse. The partnership’s approach to integrated offender management has helped provide some of Luton’s most prolific offenders with housing, employment and education options which, in turn, will help to reduce re-offending over the longer term. Similarly, work is about begin with colleagues from the Children’s Trust Board to provide sustainable outcomes for Luton’s most troubled families; early intervention with the most vulnerable children and families to help prevent disaffection and criminality in future years.

Due to the implementation of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the community safety landscape will change in the year ahead. In November 2012, the electorate of Bedfordshire and Luton will have the opportunity to vote for its first Police and Crime Commissioner and soLUTiONs Community Safety Partnership is committed to working with the new Commissioner to improve the lives of Luton residents.

Future partnership arrangements and challenges
The soLUTiONs Partnership is envisaging a number of social, political, legislative and economic challenges over the year ahead, and these are summarised below:

- restructuring of the public sector in response to continued budget reductions
- financial pressure on the third sector
- introduction of new ASB legislation
- introduction of new licensing legislation and the introduction of a national Alcohol Strategy
- new Troubled Families initiative
- legislation regarding the rehabilitation of offenders (including the payment by results agenda)
- Luton’s vulnerability to extremism – including EDL demonstrations (May 2012) and known Muslim extremist activity.

Community engagement
soLUTiONs will continue to engage the public in the work of the Partnership through the following mechanisms:

- regular provision of information through media releases, adverts, leaflets, the soLUTiONs website and face to face meetings
- encouraging the ‘big society’ ethos by supporting grass roots initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, tenants and residents associations, environmental action days, and police street meets
- promoting participation in local decision making through the neighbourhood governance and area committee process
- working with the voluntary and community sector to deliver local preventative services such as the SOS Bus and Victim Support
- work in partnership with the local news media to promote good news stories to improve public perception and reduce the fear of crime.
Annexe A – soLUTiONs’ Partners


Under this legislation partnerships must have representation from the ‘responsible authorities’, or key local statutory agencies. In Luton our statutory partners are:

- Luton Borough Council
- Bedfordshire Police
- Bedfordshire Police Authority
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS Luton
- Bedfordshire Probation Trust

Other key partners include:

- Luton Youth Offending Service
- Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board
- Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership
- Luton Assembly
- Luton Crown Prosecution Service
- Luton Magistrates’ Court
- South Essex Partnership Trust
- Victim Support
- Luton Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Luton Domestic Abuse Strategic Group
- Luton Safe
- SLP
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Luton and Dunstable Hospital
- Cambridge Community Services