

Luton Borough Council Environment Strategy Framework

Date: 26th July 2010

Version number: 5.1

Additions are:-

Link to Carbon Trust Carbon Management Plan

Link to Energy Savings Trust Local Area Carbon Emissions Reduction Report

Link to Sustainable Communities Strategy

Owner: CCT

Enquiries to :-

Climate Change Team

Luton Borough Council

Town Hall

Luton,

LU1 2BQ

Phone 01582 546004 - Fax 01582 546851

<mailto:myclimate@luton.gov.uk>

www.luton.gov.uk

Leader's Foreword

Luton Borough Council takes a responsible long-term view to providing a sustainable and 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.

Councillor Hazel Simmons

Introduction by the Director of Environment & Regeneration

The aim of this document is to draw together the various freestanding plans, strategies and documents that seek to safeguard and improve the environment. It is written in the format of a strategy to ensure connectivity and accountability across Departments who have responsibility for environmental issues.

This is the first iteration of an Environment Strategy which sets the framework for strategic policy and actions based on existing thinking. It highlights elements of good practice and the challenges ahead.

As a statement of current undertakings this strategy framework will be used to identify any gaps in the policies and programmes of the Council. It also provides a mechanism to review and update actions across the Council to create a strategy for the future. The potential to link with other partners will be investigated. A new action plan necessary to deliver the key environmental priorities of Luton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026 will be formulated by March 2011.

Colin Chick

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Chalkhill Blue Butterfly

Section 1: Introduction

Our priorities

The state of our environment is a key local concern. [Luton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026](#) lists environment and economy as one of four main areas of focus, inline with stronger and safer communities, health and wellbeing and children and young people.

The following key priorities have been agreed, based on evidence from partners and community aspirations for the environment in Luton:-

- 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
- improving public transport, access and mobility and increasing travel to work by sustainable modes of transport, including public transport, walking and cycling.

The role of the Council

Luton Borough Council is responsible for management and delivery of many key activities which impact on the environment, including transport and traffic management, land use planning, energy efficiency and conservation, the provision of a waste management service and management of open and green spaces.

Additionally, as an organisation the Council is responsible for consumption of energy and wastes coming from office buildings, community centres and schools, business travel of staff and consequences of procurement decisions.

The Council is working to ensure that it is environmentally aware in all the activities it undertakes. It is committed to minimising the negative environmental impacts of its own organisation and seeks to improve the environment in partnership with local people.

The Aim of this Strategy Framework

The aim of this Environment Strategy Framework is to highlight the various Plans, Strategies and Documents including statutory documents that provide guidance on safeguarding and improving the Environment in Luton. A framework is provided for all current environment-related plans and policies, highlighting elements of good practice and challenges ahead. The intention is to identify and bridge any gaps between current undertakings and possible actions necessary to deliver the key environmental priorities of Luton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026.

Section 2

Short Description of Luton

Location

Luton is 30 miles north of central London. The town has excellent communication links, with Luton, Luton Parkway and Legrave railway stations within its area. The M1 Motorway runs through Luton and there are two junctions in Luton. North and South road links are also available via the A6 and the nearby A5 and the main east-west road link is the A505. London Luton International Airport is also situated within Luton.

Demography

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) gives the population of Luton as 191,800 in the middle of 2008. Research undertaken by Luton Borough Council shows that this is a significant underestimate of the true population: 204,700 is more realistic. With an area of 4,336 hectares (10,715 acres), these population figures translate into a population density of 44.2 persons and 47.2 persons per hectare respectively. Both of these figures are greater than many London Boroughs.

The following assessment of the composition of the Luton population draws upon data contained within the 2001 Census, the mid-year population estimates and the Luton BC's own research.

The ONS Mid-year population estimates show that the age structure of Luton's population differs from that of the UK population as a whole. Luton has a younger population than that of both the UK and the Eastern Region. The "Under 4s" account for 8% of the Luton population compared with 6% in the Eastern Region and UK. The "5-15" age group accounts for 13% of the Luton population compared with 12% in UK and the Eastern Region. The "Over 65" age group comprises 12% of the Luton population compared with 16% nationally and 17% regionally.

The town is ethnically diverse, with approximately 35% of the population being of Black and Minority Ethnic origin, with significant Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian and African Caribbean communities. In recent years the diversity of the population has increased with foreign students coming to the University of Bedfordshire's Luton Campus and the arrival of citizens from other EU Countries, notably Poland and Eastern European countries. Twenty per cent of the population was born outside the UK, and 43% of children (aged 0-15) are of BME origin. More recent data from the annual school census shows that 54% of the school age population are from non-British groups.

All indications are that international migration will increase and that the UK is a "favoured" destination. Research suggests that "waves" of in-migration will continue and that the concept of "super-diversity" will start to apply to some local populations in the UK. This is a shift from the traditional view of diverse populations whereby there are one or two large minority ethnic groups to a position where there are numerous similar sized ethnic groups in an area. This will add to the complexity of local demographics and generate significant challenges for the way services are delivered to a dynamic population.

Population Projections

The trends in the projections clearly show:-

- An ongoing increase in numbers of children and young people to 2021.
- A decline in the working age population commencing around 2011.
- A steady increase in the elderly population with the rate of change increasing around 2011.

Economy & Employment

Unemployment in Luton remains comparatively high at 5.1%, compared to the East of England region (3.4%), and the national average (4.1%).

The Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) 2007 records a total of 86,900 jobs in Luton, a 0.4% increase on the figure for 2006. Luton's reputation as a manufacturing town has been eroded in recent years.

The real estate, renting, and business activities sector employs the most people in Luton, accounting for 21% of employment. Other major sectors include 17% employed in wholesale and retail trade and 13% in transport, storage and communications.

Luton has the second lowest proportion of residents in the highest social grade (AB) within the East of England region at 17.9%.

Housing

In April 2007, there were 74,954 dwellings in Luton. The vast majority of these (63,214) are in the private sector. Just over 11% of the total housing stock is owned by the Borough Council and just over 4.5% are rented from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

The Luton Housing Requirements Study 2004/05 estimated that 17,635 households are currently living in unsuitable housing, with 5,885 of these living in overcrowded conditions.

Luton has a significantly higher proportion of overcrowded households compared to regional and national figures. At 11.6% of households, this is double the East of England average (5.2%), though it should be noted that Luton has a larger number of smaller properties than comparative Boroughs. It is also suggested that 7% of private sector dwelling occupants are experiencing fuel poverty.

Index of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 consider different aspects of multiple deprivation, such as income deprivation, employment deprivation, and health deprivation. Luton is ranked as the 87th out of 354 local authorities in England compared to 101st in 2004.

Incomes

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head in Luton is £11,935, over two thousand pounds lower than the national average of £14,317 and over three thousand pounds lower than the East of England average of £15,083. Indexed GDHI shows that household income for residents of the borough is declining in comparison to the UK average.

Section 3: Our Priorities

Successfully adapting and mitigating for climate change

Climate Change is a hugely significant political challenge that will have far reaching effects on our economy, society and environment. The Stern Review, published in 2006 year, offered the starkest warning yet: failure to act would result in devastating social impacts and trigger catastrophic global recession.

The past several years have seen a steady and growing rise in the public profile of the issue in the UK and elsewhere. Much attention is placed on action at the national and international level, which is essential. But we all have a vital role to play, as many of the activities causing carbon emissions are influenced by local authority services and actions.

In December 2008, the UK became the first country in the world to introduce a long term legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change - The Climate Change Act 2008. This shows national commitment to addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change. Luton Borough Council have mirrored this commitment locally by establishing a Climate Change Team whose role is to deliver practical solutions in the two aspects of climate change: mitigation and adaptation.

Luton, as with all areas, is at risk from the effects of a changing climate and the effects of changes in seasonal averages such as drier, hotter summers and increased instances of extreme weather events including flash flooding and unusual amounts of snow fall.

Facts and Figures

Luton residents' total carbon emissions were calculated to be 2.3 million tonnes of CO₂ or 11,790 kg per person in 2008, very close to the UK average - (source Best Foot Forward Luton Area Report)

- 45% came from provision of goods
- 22% came from transport
- 20% came from energy use in homes

Links to Key Documents :-

[Best Foot Forward Eco Footprint Report for the Area of Luton](#)

[Local Area Carbon Emissions Reduction Report by EST - August 2009](#)

[Best Foot Forward Eco Footprint Report for Luton Borough Council](#)

Luton Borough Council is responding to the threat of and the inevitable effects of climate change by working towards developing an adaptation action plan. This will address the services within the organisation which have assessed themselves as being most at risk to the effects of climate change and aims to identify actions to minimise these risks.

Luton Borough Council is also part of the Energy Saving Trust's 'One to One Support Programme' with the aim of developing a prioritised action plan to decrease carbon emissions in the Borough.

[Energy Saving Trust Action Plan for Luton BC](#)

Key Actions

- A Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be drawn up by March 2010 - **Short**
- To develop the plan for a 'Low Carbon Luton' - **Long**
- To complete the Energy Saving Trust One to One Support Programme - **Medium**
- To complete the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme - **Medium**
- To introduce the 'Green Up Luton' challenge, helping households in the Borough to reduce their energy use - **Short**
- To engage local businesses in the Borough, encouraging them to reduce their energy use - **Long**



Delegates from the Young Commonwealth Climate Change Summit participating in a workshop led by Luton BC



Challenges

- Engaging the significantly diverse population of Luton on the climate change agenda
- Rising population and housing growth will result in greater demand for energy and increased transport emissions

Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment

Environmental Protection

The work of the Environmental Protection team focuses on minimising noise, air and land pollution through both proactive and reactive interventions.

Noise pollution

Sound is an essential part of our daily lives; however, exposure to noise pollution can have serious effects on health and wellbeing. Noise from neighbours is the biggest cause for concern amongst Luton residents. The most frequent complaints are about loud music, people noise, parties and barking dogs. The Environmental Protection Team play a central role in the investigation and abatement of statutory noise nuisance and works in close partnership with officers from the Police, Community Safety and Housing and Community Living Department. The Team also ensure that new development and activities do not lead to deterioration in the noise environment for existing residents and businesses. Planning and Licence applications are therefore reviewed and, where appropriate, noise related conditions are included in permissions and licences.

Air pollution

Air quality in Luton is generally good. The main source of air pollution is from road traffic and the main pollutants of concern are particulates, nitrogen dioxide and ozone. Monitoring of pollutants takes place at a fixed station near to junction 11 of the M1, and has done since 1997. Further monitoring of nitrogen dioxide is undertaken in the vicinity of the M1 motorway and at London Luton Airport.

The Environment Act 1995 requires Local Authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their area with respect to the standards and objectives set in the national Air Quality Strategy (AQS). All the stages required by the Act have been completed, and in March 2005 an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared which covered properties in the vicinity of the M1 motorway. It is likely that improvements in air quality within the Air Quality Management Area and in Luton overall will be achieved as older diesel vehicles are replaced and Local Transport Plan objectives are met to increase the use of sustainable modes of transport and reduce car usage. Although, the contribution made by industry to air pollution has reduced, certain industrial activities are required to obtain a permit to operate. Permitted activities are regularly inspected and if necessary enforcement action can be taken to ensure that permit conditions are complied with.

Land pollution

Throughout the UK, there are many sites where land has become contaminated by industry, chemical spills and the dumping of waste. In most cases, levels of contaminants are sufficiently low that there is no appreciable risk, however, land contamination has the potential to cause harm to human health, ground and surface waters, ecological systems and the built environment.

The development control process is the main driver for dealing with contaminated land in Luton and it is likely to continue to be the case as government policy encourages the redevelopment of land which has previously been developed. Planning conditions are included in permissions which require the developer to carry out an investigation and to clean-up the land to a standard that makes it suitable for its new use. Where a site is identified which is not to be redeveloped and is causing or could cause harm or pollution of water, action to ensure the land is remediated can be taken under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Facts and figures

- Complaints about noise have risen 45% since 2005 (1343 complaints in 2008/09).
- 86% of noise complaints are about noisy neighbours.
- Over 50% of noise complaints are about loud music and parties.
- Air quality in Luton is generally good.
- There is one Air Quality Management Area in Luton covering dwellings in the vicinity of the M1 motorway.
- Most contaminated land in Luton is dealt with when a site is redeveloped.

Links to key documents

[LBC Environmental Protection web pages](#)

[National air quality strategy](#)

[Realtime Air quality reports for Luton](#)

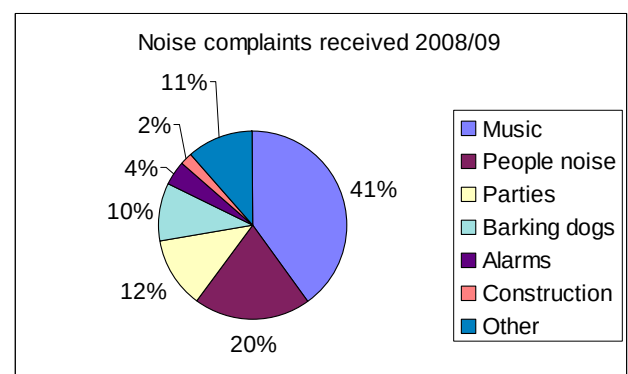
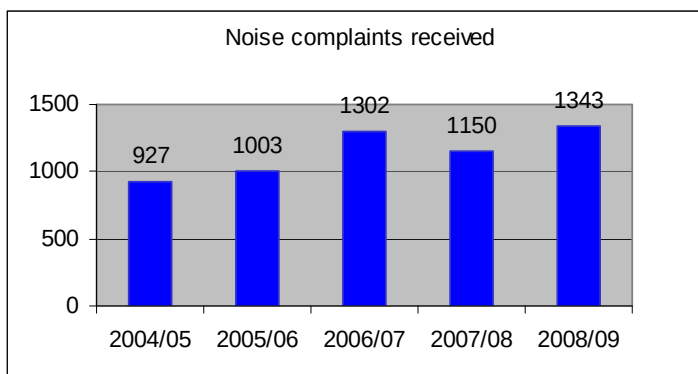
[Contaminated Land](#)

Key actions

- Develop and deliver intelligence led projects with the aim of reducing complaints about neighbour noise - **Medium**.
- Contribute to the development of the council's Local Development Framework - **Long**.
- Work with partners to improve air quality and deal with noise nuisance - **Long**.

Challenges

- Increasing number of noise complaints
- How to engage with noise-makers
- How to measure the success of proactive work
- Partner resources.



Green Environment/Parks and Green Spaces

Planting within the town including parks and green space make a significant contribution to mitigation against climate change. Parks that are well stocked with trees and shrubs help to improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide, and large expanses of grass provide areas for water absorption and a green oasis to provide a cooling effect in hot summers for the benefit of people and wildlife. They also make a significant contribution to biodiversity with a number of local parks including areas of County Wildlife Site designation; an issue discussed in more detail later in this document.

Climate change is already having an effect on the way that local parks and green spaces are managed particularly with regards to the management of the town's tree stock. The combination of more frequent gales and wetter winters is accelerating the premature loss of the town's mature and veteran tree stock a considerable concern. In particular, Horse Chestnut and Beech trees have had to be removed in increasing numbers due to problems with disease. Our current policy is to replant two trees for every one removed. Tree cover needs to be substantially increased in Luton, in the medium term to mitigate the effects of global warming and to meet targets set in the [Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan](#). When the economy recovers and confidence returns there may be opportunities for further sponsorship opportunities similar to that achieved with Danwood (the Council's supplier of Printers and photocopiers) who are sponsoring tree planting in Wardown Park.

Extreme flooding occurrences are increasing, with a recent example of an adverse effect being the cancellation of the Luton Carnival, as Wardown Park was under water. The Environment Agency has identified a number of parks and green spaces along the River Lea corridor, where there is the potential for the introduction of flood alleviation work. Examples of previous schemes include the restoration of marshland in Leagrave Park and there are proposed works in the Limbury Riverside Park and Manor Road Park. These proposed works are being consulted on as part of the Environment Agency's Flood Alleviation Plan. [Luton Flood Risk Management Strategy](#).

Members have recently agreed extra funding for the grass cutting maintenance budgets for grass verges. This additional funding will now permit a longer cutting season which has been necessitated by recent weather patterns. This will be kept under review in the future, particularly if the cutting season extends further.

The predicted increase of drier, hotter summers and potential for extreme heat waves is likely to see a significant increase in the use of parks. People seeking shelter will naturally migrate to open spaces with tree canopies as recent studies have shown that parks are up to 3 degrees cooler than the surrounding streets and built up areas in hot weather. Most of the cooling effect comes from the fact that parks are a green environment and therefore irrigation of the parks will become increasingly important in order to preserve tree/shrub/flower plantings and also for the quality of sports pitches. In future it is anticipated that the use of grey water systems will be required and to accommodate this requirement water recycling storage system solutions will need to be found. Clearly there is some synergy with the [Luton Flood Risk Management Strategy](#).

Green spaces are just one component of green infrastructure (GI). GI also encompasses access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features. Whilst the Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan provides a high level vision for the area the Luton and Southern Bedfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan provides a district perspective of GI assets. One of the objectives of this plan is to identify projects that deliver improvements to the GI network. A strategic assessment of multi-functional green space in Luton and Southern Bedfordshire recently carried out identifies priorities for the delivery of new GI to support the sustainable growth of the area. New green

spaces should enhance, extend and connect as much as possible to the existing green network. The importance of Green Infrastructure in the development of an environmentally sustainable community within an area of rapid and extensive growth should not be underestimated.

Work to develop a Green Space Strategy for Luton will set further targets to improve the quality of the open space provision to ensure that there is less need to travel by car across the town to access a quality green space - thereby reducing carbon emissions. Of the 15 million annual visits to Luton's parks and green spaces, 66% of visits are currently made on foot. This level of walking to the park is to be encouraged and increased wherever possible along with cycling, as it is a carbon neutral form of transport.

Allotments provide many benefits both to the plot holders' health and to the environment. Allotments provide a supply of locally grown "green" produce – reducing the plot holders food miles requirement. In addition, wildlife is attracted to the sites. As most allotment sites are in fairly isolated location, the costs of installation of services can be expensive but does also make them ideal locations for trials of some service provision i.e. compost toilets (which will be trialled shortly) and solar power – to reduce demand on non green energy. Currently, demand for allotment sites in Luton is exceeding supply with over 100 people on a waiting list (as at February 2010).

In terms of buildings within parks, these are repaired, maintained and where possible developed by the Parks Division and the Council's Capital and Asset Management Division. A number of energy savings ideas have already been identified and implemented (e.g. radiator heat reflector panels, energy savings leaflets for all tenants, pipe insulation, timer controlled water heaters etc.) - this work programme will be on-going and require continued funding both locally and corporately.

In accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's Approved Code of Practice L8 "Legionnaire's Disease" – the Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems" both cold and hot temperatures need to be monitored and maintained to comply with legislation. Any increase in warm weather as a result of Climate Change will increase the temperature of cold water storage in tanks and pipes (above the 20 degree maximum) and could produce an environment ideal for the proliferation of Legionella bacteria. Works required to prevent this also have positive environmental impact as the importance of insulating pipes, replacing water storage tank-fed water systems with mains-fed systems become more important. Conversely, it is important to note that increased periods of extreme cold water lead to more burst pipes in isolated pavilions, changing facilities and other parks buildings causing loss of water as well as increased repair costs.

Facts and figures

- 94% of visits to Luton's parks or green space are made from home. Of these visits 66% visit on foot, 29% by car, 3% by bicycle, and 2% by bus
- 66% of visits are made to a park or green space nearest the visitor's home address but 34% of visits to a park or green space can include a journey of up to 20 miles. The most frequent reason for travelling outside of the local area is related to the provision of facilities and things to do.
- 74% of respondents to the GreenSTAT on-line survey thought that planting more trees and shrubs would help to combat climate change.

Links to key documents

Green STAT on-line survey www.greenstat.org.uk

[Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

The [Shape Your Future](#) site contains documents relating to the draft Green Space Strategy and the Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan.

The report on Strategic Multi-functional Greenspace in Luton and Southern Bedfordshire Plan can be found at www.chalkarc.org.

The [Shape Your Future](#) site contains many documents on the Green Space Strategy.

Key actions

- To review the current policy of planting of 2 trees for every one tree removed - **Short**
- Electronically record the current tree stock and then develop management plans for parks and street trees – **Medium**
- Continue to pursue external sponsorship opportunities for tree planting – **Short**
- Keep an annual register of trees that have been removed and the replacement tree planting programme completed - **Medium**
- Open new Allotment sites to match demand in future years – **Short**
- Explore and implement alternative services on allotment sites within existing budgets and explore external grants where appropriate – **Medium**
- Ensure all Parks Management Plans include actions to mitigate against climate change - **Medium**
- Seek funding to improve existing parks and open spaces to reduce the need for local communities to travel by car to access facilities appropriate to their need – **Medium/Long**
- Continue to work with partners in respect of Luton flood risk management, walking and cycling groups - **Short**
- To continue to improve parks buildings within existing budgets to reduce energy consumption of water, energy from non sustainable sources (fossil fuels) and ensure compliance with The Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems (HSE) - **Short to Long term**
- Grant funding and Implementation of Leagrave Heritage Project - **Medium**

Challenges

- Protecting Luton's tree stock from the effects of climate change
- Seeking funding for improved facilities in local parks
- Pressures to address Luton's housing shortage and lack of green space allocation per head of population
- Maintaining compliance with ACoP (Approved Code of Practice) L8 in respect of the control of Legionella bacteria in water systems exacerbated by hotter summers and need to change water management systems.
- Increased numbers of burst pipes in isolated buildings during periods of extreme cold weather.



Wardown Park



Flooding in Wardown Park

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is shorthand for biological diversity and refers to the variety of organisms on land, in water and in the air, the habitats in which they live and the relationship between them. Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is an essential element of sustainability.

The Council has a Biodiversity Duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act) to conserve biodiversity and to better integrate it into decision making. Local authorities are required to raise the profile of biodiversity and to stimulate a culture change across the public sector.

The Government supported East of England Biodiversity Forum has produced a Regional Biodiversity Delivery Plan, which includes actions to help local authorities deliver their Biodiversity Duty.

Luton has 25 County Wildlife Sites (CWSs), designated by the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Forum in accordance with objective scientific criteria. They cover a variety of priority sites that are identified in Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), including calcareous (chalk) grassland, waterways and wetlands, ancient and species-rich hedgerows and woodland. They provide habitats for a range of protected plants and animals. All sites of nature conservation interest in Luton are regularly reviewed by the Local Sites Partnership to ensure that the list of CWSs is kept up-to-date.

Sites' Partnership to ensure that the list of CWSs is kept up-to-date.

Eight of the Council's nature conservation sites are under Countryside or Environmental Stewardship Agreements with Natural England. These agreements require sensitive site management in accordance with an agreed plan and are a source of funding to enable the work to take place.

Facts and Figures

The Council owns and manages a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Warden and Galley Hills, which lies beyond the administrative boundary of Luton. SSSIs are statutorily protected national designations.

List of County Wildlife Site Locations

• Castle Croft and Bluebell Wood • Church Cemetery • Riverside Walk • Fallowfield • The Chase • Biscot Churchyard • Stockwood Park • Wigmore Valley Park • Stony Hills • Dallow Downs • Spittlesea Hill * • Peoples Park • Cowslip Meadow	• Slaughters Wood and Green Lane • Bramingham Wood & Grasslands • River Lea • Leagrave Common & Wauluds Bank • Bradgers Hill • Croda Colloids * • Honeygate and Crick Hill • Oaket Wood • Oosey Hill • Winch Hill Wood • Wandon End Open Space • Kidney Wood • Dunstable to Luton Disused Railway *
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* Under review

Links to Key Documents

[Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Luton Local Plan 2001-2011 Policy ENV 5 and supporting text \(2006\)](#)

Key Actions

- Comprehensive Management Plan for Warden and Galley Hills - **Short**
- Implementation of Annual Targets in Stewardship Agreements - **Short**
- Grant funding and Implementation of Leagrave Heritage Project - **Medium**
- Local Nature Reserve Designation for Fallowfield and Cowslip Meadow. - **Medium**
- Limbury Riverside Parks Management Plan - **Medium**
- Implementation of Luton Historic Landscape project funded by the Chalk Arc - **Medium**
- Contributing to the objectives of the East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2008-2015 - **Medium**

Challenges

- pressure for development
- adapting to climate change
- protecting ecosystems
- realising the value of biodiversity in improving our economy, health and wellbeing
- enhancing the biodiversity evidence base
- coordinating small sites into a wider biodiversity network
- funding constraints



Leagrave Marsh



Chalkhill Blue Butterfly



Warden Hill Meadow July 2009

Street Seen



As a proactive approach to maintaining cleanliness standards and tackling street scene issues head-on, Street Seen takes the form of a neighbourhood environmental watch with the ultimate aim of improving the Local Environmental Quality Standards (LEQS) and addressing resident's quality of life issues.

The benefits are plentiful for Councils adopting and running such a scheme. The simplicity of the scheme's operation and maintenance make it manageable without the requirement for a change in existing practices or procedures. The enrolment of any willing resident ensures active community involvement with Council action whilst helping sustain DEFRA's Cleaner Safer Greener Communities standard of their neighbourhood. The vast majority of issues to be addressed are those of the type already dealt with by the Council and hence yield quick positive results on a considerable scale. The scheme also helps to engender an enhanced reputation for the Council in the minds of residents in terms of willingness and ability to tackle individual concerns of the general population.

The scheme itself is centred on a reporting system that enables socially conscious residents within the borough to inform a central LBC contact, free of charge; about issues affecting their street in the first instance but also other areas in their local community should they so wish. That central contact, the co-ordinator for the scheme, is then tasked with finding suitable solutions to address these issues, putting these remedies into action and then reporting back to the resident with details of what is to be done. Suitable remedies will include raising work orders, redirecting concerns and questions to colleagues and informing the resident involved of council policy with regards related matters (e.g. no side waste policy with refuse collection, removal of offensive graffiti within 24 hours).

Enrolled residents are known as Champions. For the scheme to be as successful as possible and procure the assistance of enough residents and businesses to be fully active on a borough-wide scale, it was deemed that it needed to be as user friendly as possible in an operational sense and inflict minimal cost in time and effort for those involved. For this reason, the Champions are asked to report issues when they occur but are not expected to undertake any kind of patrolling or monitoring functions.

As well as having dedicated contacts throughout the streets of Luton providing free and easy options for reporting issues, the scheme also has another advantage over the existing set-up. In return for reporting an issue, enrolment in the scheme guarantees a Champion feedback relating to how the problem was dealt with or reasons for a resolution not being immediately emplaced. This guarantee is a key reason for the scheme being viewed so well by the participating residents and businesses. The vital ingredient is not so much the ability to act in any one instance but is rather the effort made to report back to the Champion if nothing can be done either immediately or indeed at all. It was decided at the start of the trial that Champions should be made to feel that they were a member of a

worthwhile group rather than being used just as an extra resource. It was believed that this would generate more reports, sustain interest and help promote the word of mouth element of growth. For that reason, each champion is kept up to date with issues wherever possible unless they specify that they do not wish to be informed.

A second branch of the scheme was launched in 2009. Called Junior Champions, it is a scheme based upon the main Street Champions scheme detailed above. The Junior Scheme is centred on schools and enables young people to get involved in the same community-minded activity that the Street Champions do. The difference in the Junior Scheme is that the youngsters are not enrolled individually but a whole school is asked to join. If the school does so, all of the pupils are then classed as Junior Champions and all have access to make reports and get involved in the support work that is included. Walking tours are one such inclusion. This involves the Scheme Co-ordinator taking classes out of school to visit a couple of local streets to help them understand what issues can be dealt with. As part of the walking tour, the young people learn about the knock-on effects of environmental inconsideration as well as learning about the council as a whole, service provision, community considerations etc. Assemblies and in-class work also feature in the Junior Scheme with the whole focus being to help develop social responsibility within our schools and with regard to environmental and related topics.

The future of the Street Seen this year is focussed on both branches of the scheme. For the former, it will focus on developing the relationships with Street Champions and formalising some of the scheme structure. A conference will take place in the coming months that will allow champions to interact should they wish to and have contact with a variety of council departments. Guest speakers will feature with workshops and an extended Q&A session. A quarterly newsletter will be launched that will provide pertinent information for Champions and provide opportunities for free training courses, further involvement with council services and act as promotional material for new members. The number of schools involved in Junior Champions will be more than doubled and development of a supporting website will continue. A Junior Champions conference is also planned, to be hosted by an existing Champion school. This will feature presentations, role-plays, workshops and will be largely handled by the young people themselves. Support from Council officers will be provided and a competition will be run to promote active involvement by individual pupils.

Key Actions

- A conference will take place in the coming months that will allow champions to interact should they wish to and have contact with a variety of council departments - **Short**
- A quarterly newsletter will be launched that will provide pertinent information for Champions and provide opportunities for free training courses, further involvement with council services and act as promotional material for new members - **Medium**
- The number of schools involved in Junior Champions will be more than doubled - **Medium**
- Development of a Junior Champion supporting website will continue - **Medium**
- A Junior Champions conference is also planned, to be hosted by an existing Champion school - **Medium**

Link

[Street Seen](#)

Coordinated Street Scene

It is important that Streets are designed and maintained to make them attractive and easy to use. A coordinated Street Scene Guide

[See page 52 for Co-ordinated Street Scene](#)

Objectives

- Ensure the continual improvement in the street scene throughout the borough as schemes are implemented through simple, logical, zoned and consistent layouts.
- Ensure streets are accessible and easily used by as many people as possible without undue effort, special treatment or separation.
- Reduce the financial commitment of maintaining the public highway by limiting stock variation to six distinct palettes.
- Make the maintenance of the street scene easier and more efficient. Where there is a requirement to replace street furniture, individual items can be replaced like-for-like rather than by 'best-match mismatch'.
- To complement and strengthen the objective in the council's Vision 2011 for a clean, tidy and green environment, with a significant increase in the number of trees.

Strategy Tools / Approach

- To adopt an holistic approach to the street scene.
- To improve the quality of design through education and training.
- To use specified palettes of material appropriate to the area.
- To increase the number of street trees.
- Use established Best Practice.

Planning

Good land-use planning can help to reduce the environmental impact of development. For instance, by locating major travel generating land-uses such as offices and shops in town centres and near to good quality public transport, it can help to reduce the need for car travel and so reduce transport emissions. Delivering mixed-use development and ensuring communities have good quality district and local centres can also ensure that more people can access day to day facilities by walking and cycling. Planning can promote energy efficient design, and ensure that a proportion of energy generation for new development comes from renewable energy sources. It can also ensure that new development has high quality design and brings with it high quality open space and enhancements to the natural environment. Inserting facilities for children's play into the street scene, such as those at St George's Sq and *Dunstable Road Streetplay* project can ensure there is a positive attitude to the Council's management of the environment

The Borough of Luton Local Plan was adopted in 2006, and this included planning policies for regenerating the town's economy. These policies also ensure that housing was provided, which meets the needs of residents, and particularly, makes affordable and social rented housing available to those families within the town, who are unable to afford to buy their own home. Other policies aim to deliver a good transport system, to safeguard and enhance the environment and green space including historic assets, urban wildlife and plant habitats. Some policies also aim to ensure a good

level of quality design in new development. Not least, the plan introduced policies for the first time on the need to secure 10% renewable energy on-site for developments of over 1,000 m².

Since 2001:-

- 2,630 homes have been developed within the town;
- the Butterfield business park phase 1, incorporating innovative heating and ventilation technology, has been completed and occupied;
- redevelopment of St Georges' Square has been completed;
- the extension to the Mall shopping centre is under construction;
- Vauxhall car plant demolition and recovery of recyclable material has been completed in preparation for an approved Napier Park mixed business, offices and housing development with links to Luton parkway station.

With the exception of saved policies, the Local Plan has now largely been superseded under the new planning system by the emerging new Local Development Framework (LDF). The current planning context for Luton was set by the Secretary of State's Communities Plan which identified 4 regional Growth Areas, as part of the Government's housing growth and delivery agenda, one of which included the Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-Region on the edge of the East, South East and East Midlands regions. Consequently, in 2005, the Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (MKSM SRS, 2005) designated Luton combined with Dunstable and Houghton Regis conurbation, including Leighton Linlade, as a Growth Area. The MKSM SRS also aims to regenerate the conurbation and sets a target of delivering 41,700 new homes 2001-31 and an equivalent increase in employment. These requirements were endorsed by the East of England Plan published in 2008.

In order to deliver the growth agenda, Luton and Central Bedfordshire are currently preparing a joint LDF. The first document to be prepared is the Core Strategy and Key Diagram Development Plan Document (DPD), which will set out the strategic land-use policies and the main locations for significant growth within the plan area.

A major challenge for the Core Strategy, in terms of delivering the growth agenda within Luton and the wider conurbation, is being able to deliver sufficient housing and attract sufficient businesses to the area, whilst at the same time addressing the major transport congestion. This is why major transport schemes such as the Luton-Dunstable Busway are so important in improving transport options in the town.

Facts and figures

The Core Strategy recognises that the Growth Area of Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis needs to operate as integrated functional urban area, allowing people to both live and work locally and to access shops and services, leisure, health and education with the minimum need to use the private car. Recycling of brownfield urban sites will be critical to minimise the need for greenfield land loss (and associated loss of biodiversity, productive farmland and countryside) in the urban extensions as the conurbation expands.

However, there will be a need to avoid the risks of 'town cramming' through an over emphasis on brownfield sites. Where urban sites are being reused, it is important to maximise the use of public transport, walking and cycling opportunities. It is also important in bringing forward such sites, to

ensure good access to the 3 town centres (Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis), as well as integrating development with the proposed new urban extensions.

Since 2001:-

- 6,431 net homes have been completed across the conurbation and growth Area;
- Home building has been broadly matched by 5,600 net jobs created (7,200 within Luton i.e. there were net losses in the Growth Area outside of Luton);
- Since 2001 a total of 983 affordable housing units were secured (305 affordable dwellings within Luton);
- Over 11,900 dwellings are committed to be built within the conurbation on urban sites up to 2021 (i.e. 60% of target when added to completions) and a further 6,100 dwellings (or 40% of target) to 2031;
- 9,300 dwellings will be required on greenfield land within new urban extensions to 2021 and a further 8,300 to 2031;

Links to key documents

The current local plan [Luton Local Plan - \(2001 - 2011\)](#) adopted in Luton in 2006 has largely been superseded by the emerging Core Strategy under the LDF. The saved policies, (including saved Bedfordshire Structure Plan Policies) and LDF documents (the emerging Core Strategy) together with monitoring and research evidence base can be accessed via <http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk>

Policy U3 at Chapter 8 [Chapter 8 of The Luton Local Plan](#) on pp101 & 102 requires all New Developments totalling more than 1,000 m² to incorporate renewable energy generation to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements

The link <http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk> also gives access to specific research underpinning and helping to develop and support renewable energy policy, sustainable infrastructure contributions, including flooding and climate mitigation and adaptation, and target setting. The Local Annual Monitoring Report is also listed and contains data and commentary on achieving local and national indicator sets.

The Luton and South Bedfordshire Local Development Framework *Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report* [Luton and South Bedfordshire Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report](#) outlined the important issues that need addressing in the development of Luton and South Bedfordshire.

The [Local Development Framework](#) is not a single document, but is a portfolio of several documents all of which are called Local Development Documents designed to deliver the spatial planning strategy for a local authority's area. The LDF includes Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and a Statement of Community Involvement.

Key actions

Subject to review via the Annual Monitoring Report, the Local Development Scheme sets the following timetable (the timetable(s) within the Local Development Scheme is regularly reviewed and is subject to resources) for delivering the LDF:-

- Core Strategy and Key Diagram DPD: February 2011;
- Site Allocations DPD: December 2011;
- Development Management DPD: September 2011 ;
- Gypsies and Travellers DPD: December 2011
- Combined Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD: Jan 2012;

This timetable will be subject to change in the early part of 2010/11 and is reviewed annually.

Challenges

The main challenge facing planning within the town will be to create a Core Strategy and Key Diagram DPD, which will be found sound at the subsequent Examination in Public chaired by an independent planning inspector in the summer of 2010.

Other challenges will be:-

- delivering sufficient affordable housing to address the local high demand;
- delivering the scale of housing provision against infrastructure costs
- ensuring that regeneration and economic growth is sustainable and matches housing delivery;
- ensuring that development secures contributions towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and *via* locational and *via* design policies



St Georges Square at Night



Napier Park, Kimpton Road

Historic Built Environment and Archaeology

Within the Borough of Luton there are 4 designated Conservation Areas, 83 Listed Buildings (including some groups of buildings), 2 Scheduled Monuments and 2 Registered Parks and Gardens.

The Council has a duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to review and, from time to time, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas. The four conservation areas in the Borough are Town Centre, Plaiters Lea, High Town Road, and Rothesay Conservation Area Appraisals have been prepared for Plaiters Lea and High Town Road the latter of which also has a management plan which recommends a series of measures to protect and enhance the significance of the cultural, historic and aesthetic features of the area.

Our historic environment is irreplaceable and therefore buildings of special architectural and historic interest are protected by virtue of being Listed and are subject to additional planning controls. The Council has a duty to keep the list under review and is in the process of reviewing both its statutory listed buildings and those buildings contained in a local list.

Planning Policy Guidance note 16 requires archaeological remains to be seen as a finite non-renewable resource. In addition to the specific protection afforded to the two Scheduled Monuments at Waulud's Bank and Dray's Ditches other identified sites of importance for archaeology and ancient remains of which we are not yet aware should not be needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed.

Wardown Park is a grade II Registered Park which is considered, by English Heritage to have a significant environmental quality in terms of richness of green space and group of historic buildings. A small part of the Putteridgebury listed park is also within the Borough.

Key Actions

- Publish Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for all designated Conservation Areas. March 2013. Head of Regeneration.
- Review existing Conservation Areas and consider the potential for new designations. Ongoing. Head of Regeneration.

Challenges

Identifying the resources to record archaeology with the increasing demands for development on previously undeveloped sites

Lack of awareness of the significance of the historic environmental

Balancing the demand for sustainable buildings with retention of historic features

Flooding issues

The Council set up a Luton Flood Management Group in 2009. It comprises of Council Officers and representatives from the Environment Agency, it is intended to have representatives of Thames Water on the group as well.

The intention of the Group is to ensure that Flood Risk is properly managed within Luton, by all those who have a responsibility for it. The Group is following the progress of the Flood and Water Management Bill <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/floodandwatermanagement.html> that will formalise the recommendations of the [The Pitt Review: Lessons learned from the 2007 floods](#).

When the Flood and Water Management Bill is enacted, the Group will ensure that the Council complies with its new statutory duties. To see updates on the Luton Flood Risk Management Strategy when available, click here [Luton Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)

The Luton Flood Management Group will also be involved in the development of a Surface Water Management Plan. The Group is also involved in ensuring that National Indicator 189, Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management, is properly delivered. In 2008 the Council scored 100% on this Indicator, see

[NI 189 Luton Performance](#)

Actions

- Development of a Surface Water Management Plan by March 2011
- Ensure compliance with the Flood and Water Management Act



Wardown Park Floods

[Luton Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)

Reducing consumption of water, energy, materials and minimising waste, including support for renewable energy generation

Corporate Resource Management

The independent Report written by the Independent Auditors Grant Thornton published in December 2009 on Use of Resources recognises that the Council is working to reduce the use of Physical Resources. It scored 2 on Managing Resources which equates to “Adequate performance”.

Recommendation 10 - Measurement and management of emissions and water consumption – of the UOR report states:-

This area encompasses a wide range of activity, but there are two key areas in which the Council will need to demonstrate outcomes in order to improve its current assessment score:-

- show a clear understanding of carbon emissions across the full range of Council services, and a year-on-year reduction to emissions quantifiable by volume and cost saving.
- show effective measurement of water consumption across all Council assets, and year-on-year reductions of consumption.

Within both areas, as well as providing a clear overview it will be useful to link specific initiatives to measurable reductions in the targeted area, for example the impact of installing low-carbon technology in a particular building.

The [Corporate Asset Management Plan 2009-2014](#) (AMP) is intended to provide a high level strategic document that sets out the framework under which fully costed programmes detailing the future deployment of the Council's property assets will be developed. The plan provides a medium term strategy for a 5 year period, but the vision it establishes extends well-beyond that date, whilst the immediate action plan focuses on the financial years 2009/11 with a view to undertaking annual reviews alongside the Council's budget cycle. The AMP contains an Action Plan with 57 Actions; they are not listed here due to space restrictions.

The Corporate Asset Management Plan contains links to Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Primary Capital Programme (PCP), Basic Need (BN) and many other capital funding streams linked to the rebuilding, remodelling and refurbishment of much of the Council's operational assets, including schools. Such an investment will be a significant catalyst for:

- the closure of redundant/inefficient/obsolete assets (reshaping the estate, development of community hubs, office of the future)
- improvements through new design solutions
- improvements through new and updated construction methods
- improvements in operational efficiencies (e.g. reducing energy consumption, Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001/Disability Discrimination Act)
- BSF is building to BREEAM 'excellence' or 'very good' ratings
- maximising asset usage by time-sharing/sweating of accommodation
- improvements in accessibility of local services by developing community hubs (i.e. closer proximity to service users)
- planning conditions linked to mitigating traffic congestion, updating transport plans, maximising community use.

The Luton Learning and Community Partnership (LLCP) are currently involved in the delivery of over £500m of infrastructure projects.

Carbon Management

In May 2009 Luton Borough Council gained a place on phase 7 the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Programme. This 12 month programme has provided the authority with an opportunity to focus its many varied climate change and carbon management activities toward reducing total carbon emissions from its own activities in a focused and structured way. The programme has provided a framework and consultant support to help us take account of current carbon emissions and costs and develop a plan to deal with these issues.

The plan outlines the case for addressing emissions, quantifies current carbon footprint, sets out a strategic direction for carbon management and details how the plan will be implemented.

Climate change is perhaps one of the most significant issues facing us all today. As a community leader, Luton Borough Council has taken a positive role in tackling the issue head on, not only in terms of reducing its own carbon emissions but also working with the wider community in addressing carbon emissions at a borough level. As well as working toward reducing our emissions is also the costs to the authority in reducing our energy consumption. Rising fuel prices, increasing legislation and concerns from residents have all culminated in driving carbon management and climate change issues to the top of the political agenda.

The plan commits us to reduce carbon emissions by 35 % by 2014 and 60 % by 2019 from a baseline year of 2008 – 2009.

The reduction focuses on emissions produced by the Council's buildings and the transport used as part of the Council's day-to-day activity, including those services delivered by Active Luton and Luton Cultural Services Trust

Our low carbon vision :-

"Luton Borough Council – acting now to tackle climate change"

Our buildings

"Buildings will be designed and adapted to minimise energy use and offer facilities that minimise the need for travel and support sustainable transport choices."

Our staff

"Staff and other building users will be trained and feel empowered to use buildings and travel in a way that is efficient and takes care of the energy being consumed."

Our services

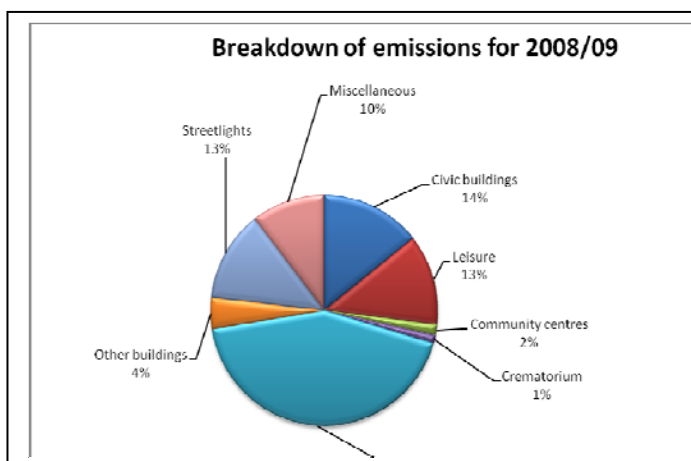
"Delivery of Council services will be considered in the context of carbon emissions and devised to minimise emissions while maintaining quality services for the community."

Our schools

"Schools and the students learning within them will have buildings that are comfortable and efficient and help students to understand what low carbon living means."

Facts and Figures

Our carbon footprint



Links to Key Documents

[Luton Borough Council Carbon Management Plan](#)

Key Actions

Projects to achieve the Council's carbon saving targets will be undertaken throughout the different service areas and departments. Key individuals across the Council have assisted in developing a clear plan of reasonable and achievable projects and aims. Some of these projects are detailed, below:-

- Advanced metering roll out to schools and main corporate sites
- Draught proofing in all offices
- Green champions in every service
- PC shutdown software for all
- Combined Heat and Power installation in larger sites
- Building rationalisation programme

Challenges

- Funding.
- Lack of engagement with staff.

Waste & Recycling

Waste, how to deal with it, how to reduce it and how to manage what we produce are key issues which affect everyone, including Luton's residents. For many people the collection, recycling and disposal of waste is a key point of contact with the council. As a Unitary Authority, the council is responsible for ensuring that all household waste is managed in a sustainable and safe manner.

Legislative, social and economic drivers have led local authorities to rethink the way they manage waste. As a responsible authority, the council has taken a long term view on the waste it generates and to its own use of its materials. It promotes waste awareness and takes into account the waste hierarchy when managing waste.

Waste management is a key issue in environmental management. The council and its partners are in an ideal position to raise awareness about issues relating to management of waste and tackling climate change. The Council works with members of the public to promote the message of recycling and waste minimisation. This education takes many forms, such as door-to-door awareness campaigns, promoting and attending events.

We also work closely with schools, and through support from; the climate change team, sustainable travel team, healthy school officers and Groundwork Luton and South Bedfordshire, we actively promote the Eco Schools programme across the borough. To champion this, we hosted an annual conference for schools to discuss best practice. The Council has invested in a state of the art environmental educational bus which is used to enhance the sustainability message throughout Luton.

The Office Green Champion scheme is a Luton Borough Council-wide scheme, and is an opportunity for the authority to lead by example to reduce the environmental impact of LBC operations and services,

Office Green Champions are volunteers who have an interest in environmental issues and feel they can make an additional contribution/difference in their workplace. Their role is to act as a link and a source of information regarding recycling, waste minimisation and energy efficiency throughout LBC buildings and operations.

In the coming year, the team will be continuing to promote the message of waste minimisation and in particular by targeting specific waste streams such as food waste and real nappy campaigns.

The Council are working on undertaking a Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Luton which will meet DEFRA's requirements and provide a route map for waste matters in the town. This will involve internal teams and external consultants and be subject to wide public consultation and will take some 12-15 months through to adoption by the Council.

Links to Key Documents

Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2000 - 2015

<http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Environment/Planning/Planning%20Department/Local%20plan%20-%20waste>

The Government published the Waste Strategy Annual Progress Report 2008/09 on 13 October 2009. This report presents an overview on progress since July 2008 on the actions set in the Waste

Strategy for England 2007 (WS2007). It highlights what has been achieved since the publication of the WS2007 and areas where there is still more to be done.

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

[Waste Strategy for England 2007 - Third Report of Session 2009–10](#)

For more information on general waste & recycling, please go to [Luton's Waste Web Page](#)

[Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan](#)

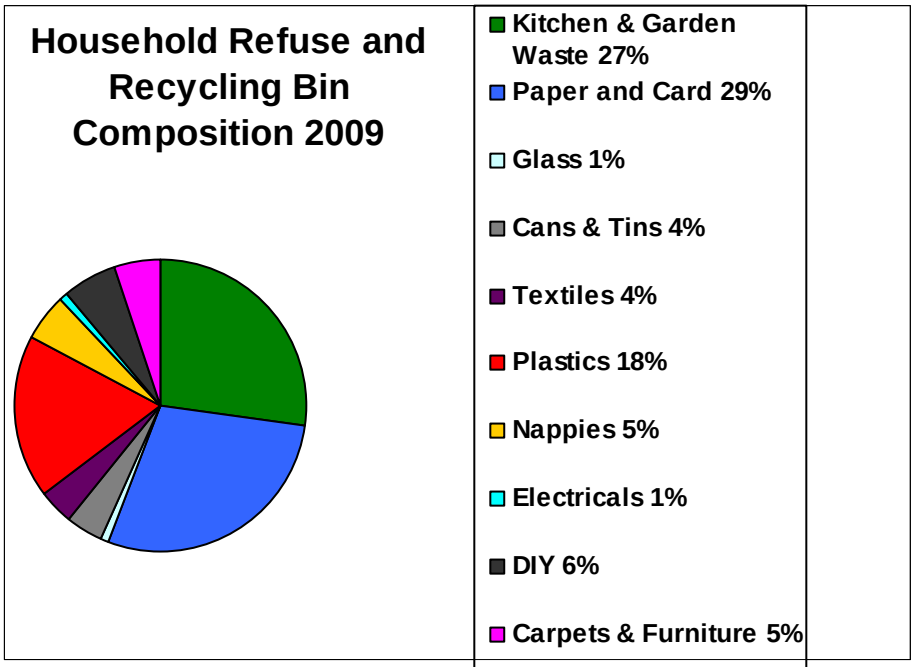
Key Actions

- Develop a wide ranging Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Luton
- Increase waste awareness of residents, stakeholders & businesses across the Borough & promote the Green Up Luton / communities idea/brand
- Meet and wherever possible exceed national & local recycling, minimisation and diversion targets
- Provide residents with an effective waste management service to meet their aspirations whilst continuing to deliver value for money.

Facts & Figures

As an authority we handle over 102,000 tonnes of waste per annum, from residents & businesses. We provide a weekly residual kerbside collection service, a fortnightly recycling and green waste kerbside collection, fortnightly kerbside glass collection & in some areas weekly kerbside food waste collections. In addition we have two Household Waste Recycling Centres and over 55 Mini recycling Centres in the community for residents and provide a collection service for bulky wastes, clinical & asbestos waste from residents.

- We Recycle, re-use & compost over 35% of household waste,
- Including; over 36 tonnes of shoes, over 36,000 litres of engine oil which is equivalent to just under 300 full bath tubs.
- But we currently landfill some 50- 60,000 tonnes,



Challenges

- Continuing to engage with residents to spread the waste minimisation, re-use and recycling messages under the Green Up your community campaigns.
- Meeting national & local targets whilst continuing to deliver Value for Money services.
- Utilise the best environmental solution for each waste stream to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfill sites, whilst handling the growth from a rising population.



The Green Up Bus

Affordable Warmth

The Affordable Warmth scheme was officially launched in 2001, and is a multi-media referral portal aimed at providing holistic, robust services for vulnerable households especially those suffering from fuel poverty. The Scheme was awarded Beacon status for “Tackling fuel poverty” in 2003. The Affordable Warmth Scheme is in the process of developing into a Home Improvement Agency and is currently in its pilot period.

Since 2001 the Scheme has helped over 5,000 households in the Borough of Luton, putting them in touch with services such as Warm Front, money advice, and a fast route into Social Services, home fire safety checks, emergency heating provisions plus much more.

The Scheme has identified that fuel poverty is not being eradicated from the local area due to many factors. The biggest influence on the upward trend of people being placed into fuel poverty is the rise in fuel prices in recent times. Luton’s definition of fuel poverty is when a household has to spend 10% or more of their disposable income on utility bills. Our work has discovered that more and more people are falling into this situation blearing the usual priority groups of households with children, elderly or long-term illness or disability.

Over the eight years that the affordable warmth scheme has been in operation there have been many milestones achieved. We have nurtured strong partnerships within the third sector, working closely and supporting agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern, NOAH Enterprises, Eastern Training Ltd, to name but a few. We have a database that is 800 strong, and has links in health, school welfare, social workers, community development officer, plus many other areas.

Currently the Affordable Warmth team is working with Eon Energy Company and Go Warm to deliver a national initiative called Challenge 100, where they are working with four identified areas in England to target “whole house solutions” for 100 properties in 100 days. Luton, Manchester, Birmingham and North Shropshire have been chosen for this initiative.

Facts & Figures

The key facts from last year’s (08/09) annual report are as follows:

- Under money advice, the CAB generated £355,143k in extra benefits for local people. This compares to £230k generated the previous year (07/08)
- Under Warm Front assistance, 62% of all referrals for the initiative in Bedfordshire came from Luton. This has led to almost £2.1m of heating and insulation work carried out in Luton properties in 2008/09.
- In terms of safety checks, 23% of all referrals that come through the Affordable Warmth Scheme have a home fire safety check by Luton Fire Brigade.
- In terms of the Healthy Heating grant, an in-house grant provided by LBC, they have paid over £103k in customer contributions for Warm Front works, thus enabling inward investment of approximately £421k to private sector housing through the Warm Front scheme.
- Eighty-five clients were referred into the pilot of the handyperson scheme in 08/09, with over 160 various services carried out in client’s property, with 18 clients being re-referred back into the Scheme for extra assistance.
- Forty three referrals were received for Social assistance in 08/09. They were offered care assessments, aids and adaptations to promote independent living, and signposting to befriending services and social networks.

- Even though the Scheme engages a cross-section of people, two third of all referrals received last year were for clients over the age of 60, who are the most susceptible to fuel poverty.
- The Scheme is reaching larger sections of the BME communities than the previous year. 49.9% of people assisted via Scheme are BME, which is nearly half of all clients referred. 65% of people assisted are over 60. 2001 Census tells us that only 12.7% of the Over 60 population are BME. This therefore suggests that the Scheme is successful in reaching older BME households.

Links to key documents

[Luton's Affordable Warmth Strategy](#)

The [Luton Private Sector Stock Survey 2006](#) at Chapter 8 outlines the approach that should be taken to Improving Energy Efficiency within Luton's Private Sector Stock.

The principle reason for homes in the private sector being 'non decent' (using the decent homes standard definition) is poor thermal comfort. There is a link between poor housing and poor health and the Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) have the biggest health inequalities and the poorest housing, Private Sector Housing are looking at working with Health Professionals to target these MSA for interventions that attempt to tackle both. National Indicator 137 (Healthy Life Expectancy at age 65) and 139 (People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently) are relevant to these interventions and to meeting the Strategic Priority of Tackling poor conditions within the private sector stock through intervention, funding and advocacy

For figures on ages of Luton Borough Council's own stock, see Sheet A of DCLG document [DCLG 2008 Business Plan Statistical Appendix](#)

Key Actions

Objectives that derive from the Warmer Luton Partnership action plan, October 08. This is currently note we are reviewing this through our current redevelopment of the Warmer Luton Partnership.

- To raise the profile of energy awareness among LBC staff and other organisations/agencies in the Borough.
- To ensure that energy awareness and advice reaches the most vulnerable members of the community.
- To implement the affordable warmth strategy for Luton Borough Council Housing stock and Registered Social Landlords.
- To encourage and assist affordable Warmth programmes in the private sector
- To review all Private Sector Housing policies around Decent homes to reflect and promote health improvement

Challenges

- Meeting the excessive demand, especially over the winter months.
- Government emphasis can focus more on the climate change agenda.
- The existing Warm front initiative, its delivery and the fact that its budget for next year will be cut by half.
- The rising price of fuel and utilities.

Housing Energy Data & Warmth

Luton Public Sector Annual SAP Report 2008-09

[NES Energy Analysis of LBC Stock up to March 2009](#)

National Energy Services (NES) undertake an annual energy assessment of the Council's housing stock. A summary of the 2008-09 results are shown below, with the 2009-10 report due for completion in May 2010. The annual report assesses the following;

- The impact of improvements made during the previous year
- Comparison of results between 2008 and 2009 using SAP 2001 methodology
- Comparison of results between the 1996 baseline and 2009 using SAP 2001 methodology

Summary Indicator	1 April 2008	1 April 2009	% Change 2008 to 2009
Average SAP	79.0	80.0	1%
Average NHER	8.4	8.5	1%
No. dwellings with SAP < 30	6	4	-33%
No. dwellings with SAP < 40	30	26	-13%
No. dwellings with SAP < 50	74	71	-4%
Total CO2 (tonnes/year)	28,142	27,032	-4%
Total GJ/ Year	407,143	387,818	-5%
Average Total Fuel Bill (£/year)	£439	£432	-£7.00

Loft Insulation

Table 11: Loft Insulation	01/04/1996	01/04/2008	01/04/2009	Total Difference	Annual Difference
0 mm	0	22	22	22	0
1 – 25 mm	154	274	247	93	-27
26 – 50 mm	3633	302	301	-3332	-1
51 – 75 mm	9	0	0	-9	0
76 – 100 mm	2380	296	320	-2060	24
101 – 150 mm	637	292	286	-351	-6
151 – 200 mm	0	2770	2708	2708	-62
200 mm +	0	1226	1207	1207	-19
TOTAL	6813	5160	5091	-1722	-69

Energy Savings

Energy and CO2	Giga Joule	Carbon Dioxide
1996	770,704	52,772
2008	407,143	28,142
2009	387,818	27,032
Saving since 1996	382,886	25,740
% saving since 1996	50%	49%
Saving since 2008	24,257	1,110
% saving since 2008	6%	4%

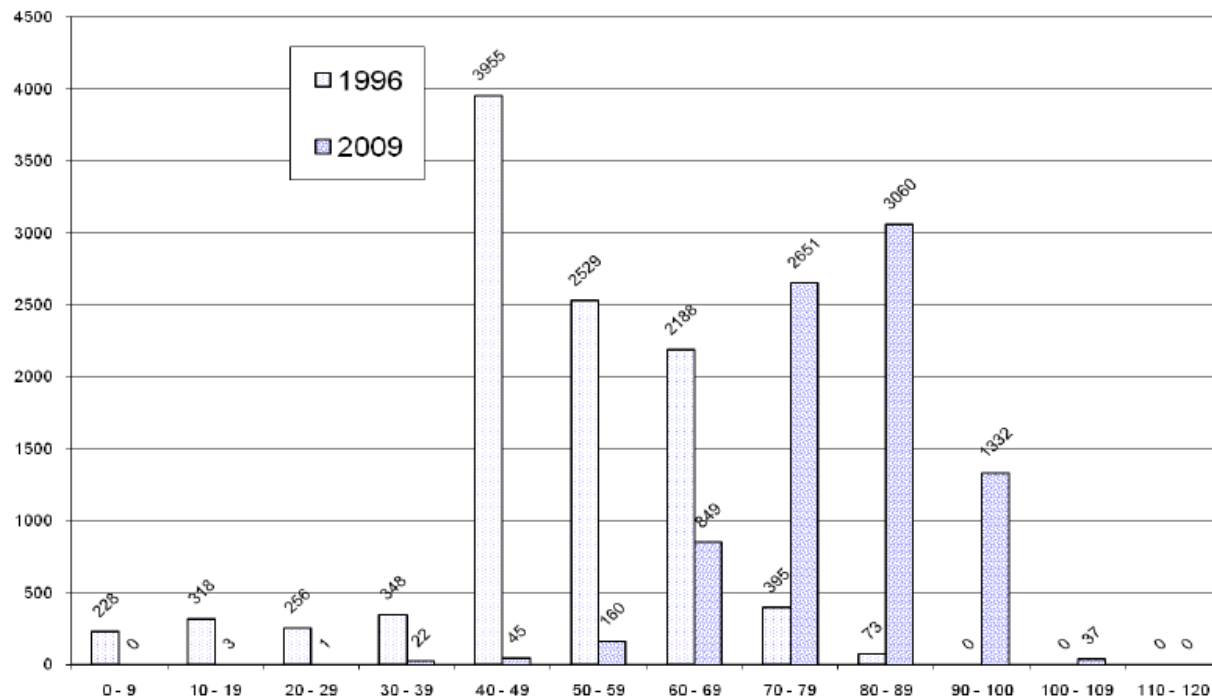
Sap Profiling

National Energy Services

Luton Borough Council Public Sector Housing: SAP Rating Profile 1996 and 2009

SAP average 1996 = 59

SAP average 2009 = 80



Decent Homes Work Programmes;

[LBC Decent Homes Work Programmes 2007-11](#)

The Council are currently on target to achieve the Decent Homes Standard 2010 deadline. As part of this, continuous investment has been allocated to replacement and upgrading of contributory energy items such as replacement boilers and central heating systems, double glazing upgrades, replacement front and back doors and electrical rewiring. A Decent Homes work programme was produced and published for 2007-2011 outlining where the work is planned to take place.

Boilers – Boilers are replaced with brand new A rated efficient condensing combination boilers with new radiators, thermostatic room temperature control, programmer and TRVs to selected rooms. Since 2007, 2071 boilers have been replaced as part of the Decent Homes programme. Tenants have benefited from improved heating controls, improved energy efficiency and thermal comfort and reduction in heating bills.

Double Glazed Windows – Existing single glazed windows are replaced with new double glazed PVCu units incorporating Low E glass for improved energy efficiency and thermal comfort. New double glazed units also incorporate trickle ventilation to enable natural ventilation to the property and help reduce the risk of condensation and poor ventilation. Since 2007 389 windows have been replaced with double glazed units.

Replacement Front/Back Doors – Existing timber front/rear doors have been replaced with high performance composite doors (PVCu faced). Any glazing is double glazing as standard, giving improved energy efficiency and thermal comfort for tenants, as well as improved security and safety. Since 2007 1675 timber doors have been replaced with new composite doors and frames.

Electrical Rewiring – Old wiring is removed and replaced including new PVCu sockets and light fittings throughout the property. New consumer units are replaced to bring all installations up to modern day standards. Light fittings to kitchens and bathrooms are replaced with low energy fluorescent lighting. Since 2007 1881 properties have benefited from new wiring and electrical installations as part of the Decent Homes programme.

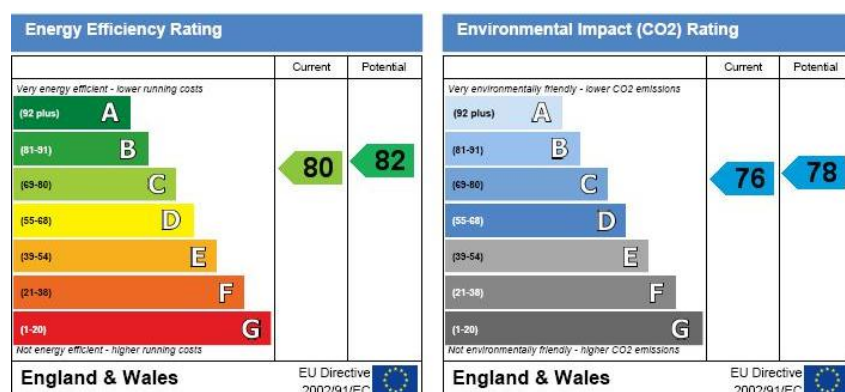
Kitchens – Kitchens are refurbished to include new kitchen units and worktops with a choice of colours. Flooring and tiles are replaced and the kitchen re-designed to give a customer friendly layout. Sure stop lever taps are fitted to reduce water wastage and extractor fans to improve ventilation. Light fittings are replaced with low energy fluorescent tube lights. Since 2007 1873 kitchens have been refurbished as part of the Decent Homes work programme.

Bathrooms – Bathroom refurbishment includes all new bathroom fittings including bath, wash hand basin and toilet, with new taps and fittings (thermostatic mixer taps installed where possible). New extractor fans are also included to improve ventilation, with dual flush cisterns assisting in reducing water consumption and low energy lighting. Since 2007 1033 bathrooms have been refurbished as part of the Decent Homes programme.

Energy Performance Certificates

Since 1st October 2008 the Council have been required to issue an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) when a property is being re-let or sold as part of a Right to Buy (RTB) application. Over 1000 EPCs have been issued since 1st October 2008. The EPC and provided information give the following information to tenants;

- Low and no cost energy saving tips and advice.
- The Energy Efficiency Rating of the property (on an A-G rating system with A being most efficient G being least efficient).
- The Environmental Impact (Co2) Rating of the property (on an A-G rating system with A being more environmentally friendly with less Co2 emissions and G being the least environmentally friendly with more Co2 emissions).
- Estimated annual energy usage, Co2 emissions, and fuel costs for the property.
- Advice on keeping warm during cold/winter periods.
- Further contact details and references for additional advice and information.



Energy Policy

The Council occupies approximately 175 non-residential buildings and in 2008-9 spent around £2.75 million on energy and water use. The main energy sources for heating and powering our buildings are electricity, gas and oil. All of these energy sources produce carbon dioxide emissions which contribute to climate change.

Energy use in the Council's buildings accounts for approximately 82% of its overall carbon footprint. Ensuring the use of energy such as gas and electricity is monitored and reduced is therefore key to ensuring the Council reduces its greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, between 2004 and 2008 our energy costs increased by 75% mainly due to price rises so minimising energy use is also key to ensuring costs are kept to a minimum.

The Council adopted an Energy Policy in January 2009 to help guide work to save energy and improve the efficient use of resources in buildings under the Council's control. The policy commits the Council to reducing overall energy use and sets out short term targets for reduction. Standards for procurement, management and the technical aspects of energy use are also set out in the policy.

Energy use is also included as part of the Council's work under the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. As part of this scheme a series of short, medium and long term actions are being developed to reduce energy consumption. These measures will help to reduce the Council's overall carbon emissions by approximately one third in the next five years. The final Carbon Management Plan, due to be produced in March 2010, will include a list of these actions and the Energy Policy will be reviewed to incorporate these projects.

Facts and figures

Targets within the energy policy:

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from our buildings by 10% by 2014
- Reduce energy consumption to typical/good practice levels within 10 years

Display Energy Certificates rate our buildings in terms of energy use from A-G (A is Best)

- The average energy rating for our school buildings in 2008 was F
- The average energy rating for our corporate offices and site in 2008 was G

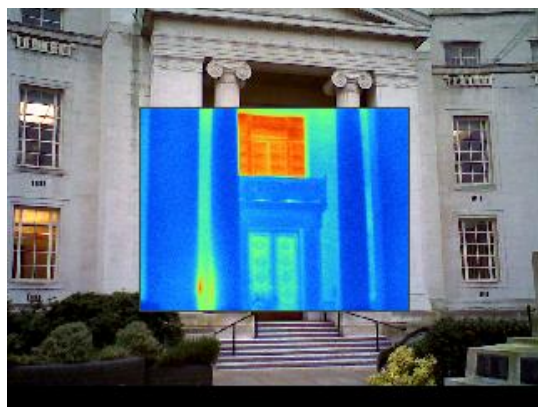
Links to key documents

[Energy Policy](#)

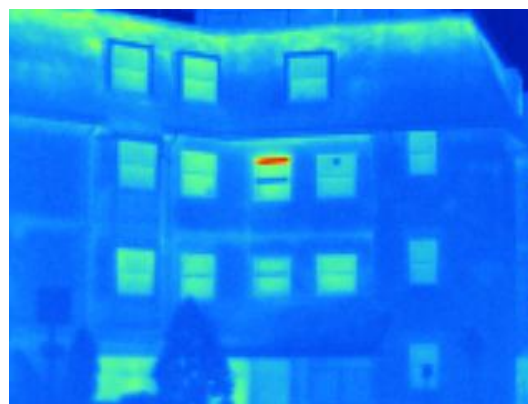
Key actions

- 'Smart' metering to be rolled out throughout school and other Council buildings to accurately monitor gas and electricity use by September 2010 - **Medium**
- Insulation works in key sites began in 2008 to reduce energy use and will continue on an annual basis - **Ongoing**
- Installation of a Building Energy Management System to effectively control energy use across Council sites will start at major sites from 2010 onwards - **Medium**
- Replacement and upgrade of lights and the installation of controls to operate lighting systems began in 2008 and will continue on an annual basis - **Ongoing**

A Thermal Imaging Camera, which is sensitive to Infra Red energy, is being used to identify areas of building where heat energy is escaping excessively.



Infra Red Image showing how Heat Energy is escaping excessively from Committee Room



Apex House showing open window

Sustainable Procurement

When purchasing goods and services, the Council has adopted policies that impact positively on climate change. We mainstream climate change and sustainable procurement into our procurement strategy and policies and work with our suppliers to ensure they understand and support our work in this area.

Sustainable procurement is good procurement. Luton was the first Borough council to be awarded the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Certificate for Excellence recognising that our systems and processes were robust and supported the principles of sustainable procurement.

Through our collaborative work with other authorities in the Central Buying Consortium, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership East and other bodies, we will seek to learn and in turn influence others to maximise the positive impact of procurement locally, regionally and nationally on climate change. We support the National Sustainable Procurement Group for Local Government

Environmental and climate change impacts occur through decisions made both on the source of, and nature of the goods and/or services purchased. It is necessary to purchase both goods and services in a more sustainable way and ensure that sustainability is included at the option appraisal stage of projects and embedded in the evaluation process. Whole life costing is a key element of our procurement process and this will be embedded across the authority. The Council will build sustainability into specifications and seek innovative solutions from contractors and suppliers.

Support for local suppliers, small to medium enterprises and start up companies are all key areas in which we can point to the positive impact of our procurement strategy and we are recent signatories of the governments prompt payment code verified by references from our supply base.

The introduction of electronic procurement systems has seen a large reduction in the number of paper documents we process (e.g. invoices, purchase orders, delivery notes) and this will continue as we develop “punch out” capability with our suppliers allowing us to access their systems directly to place orders with them.

The Local Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy was launched in November 2007 and tasks individual Councils and the sector as a whole with a series of actions to ensure procurement is undertaken in a more sustainable manner. Luton works closely with Action Sustainability; a social enterprise based in North London to monitor progress in this area and was asked to become a

founder member of the Iceberg Club, a private/public sector collaboration setting best practice in sustainable procurement.

Facts and Figures

- Trade Supply base consists of 6000 + suppliers, 2034 had a turnover of + £1000 in 2008/9
- Small to Medium Enterprise spend accounted for 55.71% of spend in 2008/9
- Local (Luton) suppliers accounted for 21.51% of spend in 2008/9
- East of England Region spend accounted for 46.99% of spend in 2008/9
- Spend with companies founded since 2000 amounted to 13.63% of spend in 2008/9
- Total spend on goods and services totalled £146,048,028 in 2008/9

Links

Local Government Sustainable Procurement Policy www.idea.gov.uk

Action Sustainability site www.actionsustainability.com

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Luton's [Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#) is in its 5th edition, dated 10.2.2009) and due for Revision April 2010. It provides a corporate focus for procurement and it embraces the authority's commitment to strategic procurement and sets out the Council's aspirations.

The Procura + Manual – guide to sustainable public procurement [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#) highlights how sustainability issues are addressed through procurement.

[Procurement Code of Practice - Workforce Matters and Equalities](#) is a document that shows, via examples, how equalities and work force issues must be taken into account in the procurement process.

The [Luton Borough Council Environmental Purchasing Policy](#) states that the Council has a strong and lasting commitment to protect the environment and will endeavour to reduce environmental damage. The Council believe it is especially important to review the effect of our own practices and they welcomed the introduction of this purchasing guide. The guide will ensure that Luton Borough Council remains a responsible and conscientious consumer

[Purchasing policy](#)

Key Challenges/ Actions

- To reduce the volume and value of manually processed invoices by routing all procurement through the corporate e.procurement system or approved systems integrated to the corporate financial system
- To increase the volume of goods and services procured through collaborative procurement exercises
- To continue to support local, micro, BAME, SME and third sector organisations and make our requirements more accessible to these sectors
- To inform principal contractors and suppliers regarding the Councils commitments to tackle climate change
- To publicise the success stories
- To monitor and measure performance and publicise the results

Improving public transport, access and mobility & increasing travel to work by sustainable modes of transport, including public transport, walking and cycling

Background

The Council published its second Local Transport Plan (LTP) covering Luton and the adjoining towns of Dunstable and Houghton Regis in March 2006. In mid 2009 work commenced to prepare the third LTP, which is due to be completed in March 2011. The LTP3 comprises a long term strategy up to 2026 together with an implementation plan published every 5 years and reviewed annually.

The LTP strategy addresses transport connectivity at four levels; strategic, area, local and neighbourhood links. The aim of local and neighbourhood connectivity is to improve movement, both between and within individual areas of the towns. Improved public transport together with walking and cycling are key to improving accessibility in these areas.

Strategic Transport

The LTP3 evidence base has concluded that the Luton and the southern Bedfordshire area is generally well connected by radial road and rail routes to London and the MK-SM sub region. However congestion occurs particularly at peak times along key corridors into the centres of Luton and Dunstable

Connectivity between Luton and surrounding towns/ cities will be strengthened by improvements to the strategic highway network. Constraints on the existing transport network, together with transport schemes to enable the planned growth in Luton and southern Bedfordshire, will require some strategic highway improvements. This recognises that it is not feasible or desirable to upgrade the highway network to accommodate all of the growth. The environment in the vicinity of these strategic schemes could be impacted upon, and the Council will apply environmental management principles as set out in chapter 6 of the LTP2 to mitigate these impacts. However, new schemes will also deliver significant reductions in congestion in the conurbation and enable existing highways to be used for improvements to public transport, cycling and walking networks.

Peak period congestion also has a severe impact on the reliability and journey times for bus services. The Luton Dunstable Busway and other bus network improvements will improve travel to/from the three town centres. Associated with this will be improvements to bus interchanges and railway stations. In addition, many of the above strategic highway improvements will also improve travel between parts of the town. Park & Ride facilities will be provided where key radial routes cross the fringe of the expanded conurbation, with bus priority routes through the urban extensions and on into the town centres

The Council monitors the impact that the implementation of strategic transport schemes and “smarter choices” to encourage greater use of sustainable modes has on travel and congestion in the area. The Councils [Network Management & Congestion Strategy](#) is focussed on implementation of these measures together with parking control and better co-ordination of road work. However the strategy recognises that, in the longer term it may be necessary to consider measures such as congestion charging.

The designated area of the Chilterns AONB extends further to the east outside area covered by this Key Diagram

HERTFORDSHIRE

TEXT BOX 1

Although outside the area covered by this Core Strategy the Joint Committee's preferred option includes development within North Hertfordshire District, comprising:

- a strategic mixed-use urban extension;
- an extension of Luton-Dunstable busway through this urban extension;
- a strategic employment site;
- a Luton Eastern Bypass; and
- a park and ride site, together with part of a Luton Northern Bypass linking the M1 and A505

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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Since the publication of the Transport White paper in 1998, Government transport policy and the provisions of Transport Acts, there is greater scope for local authorities and bus operators to work together to improve services. The 2004 White Paper sets out that local bus services must be punctual, reliable, good value, frequent with up-to-date travel information, safe (both on the bus and when walking to/from stops) and with clean, comfortable and well maintained buses.

Centrally located bus interchanges will be developed and promoted in Luton, Dunstable, and Houghton Regis. London Luton Airport will be the focus for sub- regional bus and coach services. Multi-modal interchanges will be developed at all existing rail stations in the area and be improved to cater for disabled travellers.

In 2004, Luton Council entered into a voluntary Quality Partnership with Arriva to improve the provision of bus services in the town, and this will be developed and enhanced in the next 2-3 years.

In return for the Council investing in bus priority measures and stop improvements, the operators will invest in low floor vehicles and driver training and customer care. The [Bus Strategy](#) reaffirms the Local transport Plan's general aims of securing the maximum benefits for integration, local environmental quality, social inclusion and the local economy in Luton.

The [Luton BC Parking Strategy](#) states that supplying the cost and supply of car parking are effective means of encouraging the use of alternatives to the car, thereby reducing the share of travel carried out by car, reducing congestion, noise and pollution. While seeking to reduce the number and length of journeys made by car it is stressed that the Council is not anti-car and fully accepts that many journeys will continue to need to be made by car.

The [Network Management & Congestion Strategy](#) identifies the measures for optimisation of the Highway network and congestion relief in response to the Traffic Management Act 2004. It is a five year plan based on a ten year vision to keep traffic moving and secure public confidence in journey time reliability by the most appropriate and sustainable modes and along the best routes. This will ensure that traffic flows on the right roads to protect the over used elements of the network. It is a huge challenge so in certain situations the Council will be prepared to see a small increase in average journey times in order to achieve reliability.

Facts and Figures

- About 63% of trips to work in Luton are less than 10km, and 13% are more than 20km, meaning that many people who live in Luton also work in Luton
- Despite this, many journeys to work are undertaken by car, and would be conducive to increasing travel by sustainable transport modes (See bar chart below)
- The scale of commuting into and out of Luton is similar, with journeys between Luton and Central Bedfordshire (including Dunstable and Houghton Regis) and between Luton and towns in the north and west of Hertfordshire representing the most significant movements

Challenges/Actions

- improve access to jobs and community facilities particularly for vulnerable people
- reduce risk of death/injury due to transport accidents, particularly for vulnerable users
- reduce crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour
- improve peoples' health by encouraging and enabling more physically active travel
- encourage children and young people to be independently mobile in the community
- Encourage and promote safer routes to play

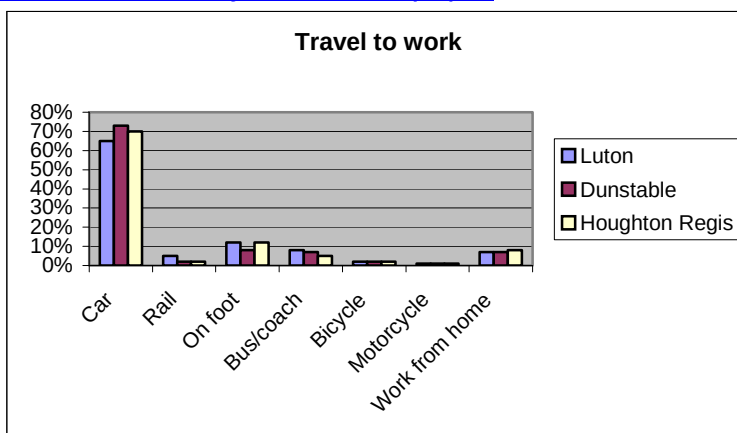
Links to Key Documents [Local transport plan](#)

[Transport White Paper - A new deal for transport: better for everyone - white paper](#)

Sustainable Travel to Schools



School Time Congestion



Schools are seen as one of the many ways to combat climate change by encouraging parents and pupils to travel to school by sustainable means. The more pupils walk or cycle to school the less CO₂ will be released into the atmosphere.

Facts and Figures

- The use of private cars has reduced in Luton by 0.8% for primary and 0.6% for secondary schools since 2007
- The journey to and from Luton schools currently puts an average of 48kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere per pupil annually.

Links to Key Documents

[Sustainable Travel To Schools Strategy Summary 2009-10](#)

Key Actions

- All Schools to have approved School Travel Plans by 2010, review annually and update every three years **Medium**
- Encourage walking and cycling to schools through training and promotions **Ongoing**

Challenges

- Changing attitudes and behaviours of parents with very limited resources
- School Travel Plans a low priority in some schools.

Cycling and walking

Walking is an important mode of everyday transport. If people choose to walk for short journeys this will reduce the number of cars on the roads and thereby reduce carbon emissions. Luton Borough Council, in partnership with Sustrans, the NHS and Luton Cultural Services Trust, is improving the facilities for walking on the highway and in parks and open spaces. This will also improve childrens' health through a reduction in obesity, a key target for the PCT.

The walking environments have been improved by having local area consultations to find out the needs of residents. Pedestrian crossing facilities traffic calming measures and 20 mph zones have been introduced. Walking to schools and work has been encouraged through participation in national promotional weeks. All these improvements have a side-effect of improving the local environment for children's outdoor play. Better play opportunities improves social and community cohesion and can lead to improved overall satisfaction with the town as a place to live.



Cycling also has the potential to make a significant contribution to the reduction of carbon in the atmosphere and also improve the health of Luton's residents. Over the last five years LBC in partnership with Sustrans has constructed a high quality strategic cycle network of both on and off road routes and this continues to be expanded. Luton Play Partnership has improved many play

facilities across the town, so having the chance to play on the way can encourage many family groups to walk or cycle instead of driving.

Publicity and education is also key to achieving the target of doubling the number of cycle trips made. We have published maps of cycle routes. A programme of Bikeability cycle training for children and adults is established and continues to grow. A Sustrans Bike It officer works in some schools in Luton and there is a bike loan scheme. Luton Borough Council has won five national awards for cycling including the National Transport Cycling Award, 2007 for an increase in cycling through infrastructure, training and promotion.

Luton were the first Council in the Country to introduce a cycle Courier for its own post in 2004. Green Link Cycle Couriers are still going strong delivering post all over Luton today.

Luton Borough Council commission its Leisure and Cultural services through Active Luton and Luton Cultural Services Trust. Both trusts will be encouraged to promote walking, cycling and use of public transport where possible to their sites across the Borough. The Council will be working with the trusts to improve access to the sites and provisions for cycles to be kept securely whilst people use the sites.

Facts and Figures

- Walking to and from schools has reduced in Luton by 1.5% in primary schools and 3.2% in secondary schools since 2006.
- Cycling to and from schools has increased in Luton by 0.2% in primary schools and 0.1% in secondary schools since 2006.
- Cycle trips increased in Luton by 49% since 2004.

Links to Key Documents

[Walking Strategy](#)

[Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#)

[Cycling Strategy](#)

[Luton Play Strategy](#)

[Luton Obesity Strategy](#)

Highway Maintenance

The maintenance of the highway infrastructure within the Borough of Luton has a significant impact upon the Environment and it is important that materials, treatments and processes meet consistent standards of quality in order to minimise the negative environmental impacts.

The range of issues relevant to the concept of environmental sustainability includes:

Noise Reduction – low noise surfacing, controlled plant noise, restricting working times;

Materials utilisation – low energy usage lamps for street lighting, introduction of LED and solar power units, permeable surfacing;

Waste management and recycling - increased use of recycled materials, reduction of vehicle movement in recycling

Pollution Control – positioning of storage materials, phasing of works;

Nature conservation and bio-diversity – consideration of sites of scientific interest, verges, hedgerows;

Environmental intrusion - Location of depots, stores, operations, light pollution.

Awareness of the Environmental impact of Highway Works is reflected in all highway maintenance works contracts and suppliers are required to be accredited to an appropriate Environmental Quality Standard.

[Link to Highway Maintenance Information](#)

Key Actions

- Continue to monitor and improve walking environment including promotion of the 'Street Seen Champions' scheme.
- Publicity and promotion programme to promote walking in Luton.
- Integrate walking with public transport.
- Develop and maintain a public rights of way network.
- Publicity and promotion of public rights of way.
- Continue to maintain, improve and expand Luton's network of cycle routes.
- Expand cycle training opportunities for children and adults who live or work in Luton.
- Encourage cycling and cycle facilities to be included in School Travel Plans and Workplace Travel Plans.
- Ensure that there is no increase in street lighting energy usage from 2009/10 levels and continue to identify and implement energy efficient solutions for all new installations.
- Increase proportion of recycled materials used in Highway maintenance year on year

Challenges

- Changing attitudes and behaviours of people to see walking and cycling as a viable alternative to some car journeys with limited revenue funding
- Reducing the perception of road safety dangers
- Reducing the perception of crime

Road safety

Road Safety is an important factor in people's choice of mode of transport. Walking and cycling do make the road user more vulnerable to involvement in injury collisions. However, the perception that roads are more dangerous than they are is a significant barrier to getting more people using sustainable travel. LBC Road Safety Strategy 2005 -2011 sets out ways that we, along with our partners, aim to reduce the number of casualties in Luton and improve the misconception that Luton's roads are unsafe. A new strategy will be developed in 2010 to be published in 2011. Parents are concerned about the risk to their children from motor vehicles, so there is a strong synergy between the road safety strategy and the Luton Play Strategy

Facts and Figures

Luton's Road Safety Strategy sets out targets to reduce the following categories of casualties from the 1994/98 average baseline by 2010:

- Killed and Seriously Injured casualties by 40%. 2008 figures showed a reduction of 27%
- Child Killed and Seriously Injured casualties by 50%. 2008 figures showed a reduction of 54%
- Slight casualties by 10%. 2008 figures showed a reduction of 12%

Links to Key Documents

[Road Safety Strategy 2005 -2011](#)
[Luton Play Strategy](#)

Key Actions

- New Road Safety Strategy to be developed and published by March 2011 **Medium**
- Road Safety Engineering, Education, Training and Publicity and Enforcement plan to be drawn up and implemented for 2010/11 **Medium**
- Road Safety Engineering, Education, Training and Publicity and Enforcement plan to be drawn up and implemented for 2010/11 **Medium**

Challenges

- Changing attitudes and behaviours of road users with limited revenue funding
- Increasing the amount of walking and cycling while reducing the number of casualties
- Reducing the perception of road safety dangers

Workplace Travel Plan

Luton Borough Council is developing a Workplace Travel Plan for its own activities. It is in its very early stages in Spring 2010. Its intention is to reduce the adverse effects of travel to work and at Work by Councillors and Employees. This may include making it easier for them to use less environmentally damaging transport modes and in some cases to obviate the need for travel, for example by use of home working and teleconferencing.

Regard will had to [DfT Advice on Travel plans](#)

Section 4: Next Steps

All actions listed within the Environment Strategy will support the delivery of key environmental priorities of Luton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026.

Services that have contributed to the Environment Strategy and also those who in the future produce Documents, Plans or Strategies that relate to the Environment, will provide updates on their progress to the Climate Change Team, who will keep the Environment Strategy up to date.

This will mean that new documents are produced that are relevant to this Environment Strategy then mention may be made to them, including insertion of web links, without waiting for the annual review.

The Environment Strategy will be reviewed annually by the Council's Sustainability Board and the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Sub-Group of the Luton Forum. The results of these reviews will inform the Local Area Agreement, Council's Corporate Plan and relevant Service Plans.

Section 5: Summary of Actions

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
Climate Change					
1.	Review this Environmental Strategy Framework, including the consideration of the potential to include partners within actions for future versions	Medium	CLMT	March 2011	
2.	A Climate Change Adaptation Plan	Short	Climate Change Team (CCT)	March 2010	
3.	'Low Carbon Luton'	Long	CCT	April 2010	
4.	Complete the Energy Saving Trust One to One Support Programme	Medium	CCT	2011	
5.	To complete the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme	Medium	CCT & Corporate Energy Manager	April 2010	
6.	To introduce the 'Green Up Luton' challenge, helping households in the borough to reduce their energy use	Medium	CCT & Waste Management	January 2010	
7.	To engage local businesses in the Borough, encouraging them to reduce their energy use	Long	CCT	July 2010	
Environmental Protection					
8.	Develop and deliver intelligence led projects with the aim of reducing complaints about neighbour noise	Medium	Head of Environmental & Consumer Services	Dec 2010	
9.	Contribute to the development of the council's Local Development Framework	Long	Head of Environmental & Consumer Services	March 2011	
10	Work with partners to improve air quality and deal with noise nuisance	Long	Head of Environmental & Consumer Services	March 2011	
11	Monitor air pollutants and complete an annual review and assessment of air quality in the town. Prepare and publish an air quality report each year	Medium	Head of Environmental & Consumer Services	Dec 2010	

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
	Green Environment/Parks & Green Spaces				
12	To review the current policy of planting of 2 trees for every one tree removed	Short	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
13	Electronically record the current tree stock, develop a management plan for parks and street trees	Medium	Head of Street Services	Feb 2010	
14	Maintain an annual register of trees that are being removed in Luton due to disease	Medium	Head of Street Services	April 2010 start, Ongoing	
15	Continue to pursue external sponsorship opportunities for tree planting within the borough	Short to Medium	Head of Street Services	April 2011	
16	Open allotment site/s to match demand in future years	Medium	Head of Street Services	2010/2011	
17	Explore and implement alternative services on allotment sites within existing budgets and explore external grants where appropriate	Medium	Head of Street Services	Training given 08 & 09, ongoing basis	
18	Ensure that all Park Management Plans include actions to mitigate against climate change	Medium	Head of Street Services	Annually with Green Flag Monitoring	
19	Continue to work with partners in respect of Luton flood risk management group, walking and cycling groups in the town	Medium	Head of Street Services	Draft awaiting approval at Jan 2010	
20	Seek funding to improve parks and open spaces to reduce the need for local communities to travel by car to access green spaces more appropriate to their need	Long	Head of Street Services + Luton Play Partnership	Ongoing	
21	Continue to improve parks buildings within existing budgets to reduce energy consumption of water and non renewable fuels	Medium to Long	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
22	To continue to improve parks buildings within existing budgets to reduce any likelihood of occurrence of Legionella	Short to Medium	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
23	Grant funding and Implementation of Leagrave Heritage Project	Medium	Head of Street Services	March 2015	
24	Increase the range and diversity of play experiences in parks and open spaces, incorporating natural, adventurous and family friendly play, to encourage children, young people and families to make best use of parks and green spaces	medium	Luton Play Partnership & Luton Parks Service	ongoing	

 = Urgent action required

 = Needs careful monitoring

 = On track

No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
Biodiversity					
25	Comprehensive Management Plan for Warden and Galley Hills	Short	Head of Regeneration	March 2010	
26	Implementation of Annual Targets in Stewardship Agreements	Short	Head of Regeneration	March 2010	
27	Local Nature Reserve Designation for Fallowfield and Cowslip Meadow	Medium	Head of Regeneration	March 2015	
28	Limbury Riverside Parks Management Plan	Medium	Head of Regeneration	March 2011	
29	Implementation of Luton Historic Landscape project funded by the Chalk Arc	Medium	Head of Regeneration	March 2014	
30	Contributing to the objectives of the East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2008-2015	Medium	Head of Regeneration	March 2015	
Street Seen					
31	A conference will take place in the coming months that will allow champions to interact should they wish to and have contact with a variety of council departments	Short	Head of Street Services	March 2010	
32	A quarterly newsletter will be launched that will provide pertinent information for Champions and provide opportunities for free training courses, further involvement with council services and act as promotional material for new members	Medium	Head of Street Services	April 2010	
33	The number of schools involved in Junior Champions will be more than doubled	Medium	Head of Street Services	July 2010	
34	Development of a Junior Champion supporting website will continue	Medium	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
35	A Junior Champions conference is also planned, to be hosted by an existing Champion school	Medium	Head of Street Services	June 2010	

 = Urgent action required

 = Needs careful monitoring

 = On track

No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
Planning					
36	Core Strategy and Key Diagram: February 2011	Short/ Medium	Head of Planning	Feb 2011	
37	Site Allocations DPD: December 2011	Short/ Medium	Head of Planning	Dec 201	
38	Development Management DPD: September 2011	Short/ Medium	Head of Planning	Sept 2011	
39	Gypsies and Travellers DPD: December 2011	Short/ Medium	Head of Planning	Dec 2011	
40	Combined Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD: Jan 2012	Short/ Medium	Head of Planning	Jan 2012	
Historic Built Environment and Archaeology					
41	Publish Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for all designated Conservation Areas	Long	Head of Regeneration	March 2013	
42	Review existing Conservation Areas and consider the potential for new designations	Medium	Head of Regeneration	Ongoing	
Flooding issues					
43	Development of a Surface Water Management Plan by March 2011	Medium	Head of Engineering & Transportation	March 2011	
44	Ensure compliance with the Flood and Water Management Act – when enacted	Long	Head of Engineering & Transportation	Within 6 months of Enactment	
Corporate Resource Management					
45	Develop a clear understanding of carbon emissions across the full range of Council services to achieve a year-on-year reduction to emissions quantifiable by volume and cost saving	Medium	Corporate Energy Manager	March 2011	
46	Measure water consumption across all Council assets, and year-on-year reductions of consumption	Long	Corporate Energy Manager	March 2011	

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
Carbon Management					
47	Advanced metering roll out to schools and main corporate sites	Short	Corporate Energy Manager	April 2010	
48	Draught proofing in all offices	Medium	Corporate Energy Manager	April 2011	
49	Green champions in every service	Medium	Climate Change Team & Waste Minimisation	April 2011	
50	PC shutdown software for all	Medium	Head of IM	Sept 2010	
51	Combined Heat and Power installation in larger sites	Long	Corporate Energy Manager	Ongoing	
52	Building rationalisation programme	Long	Head of Capital & Asset Management	On Going	
53	Ensure that there is no increase in street lighting energy usage from 2009/10 levels and continue to identify and implement energy efficient solutions for all new installations	Long	Head of Street Services	On Going	
Waste & Recycling					
54	Develop a wide ranging Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Luton	Medium	Head of Street Services	March 2011	
55	Increase waste awareness of residents, stakeholders & businesses across the Borough	Medium	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
56	Meet and wherever possible exceed national & local recycling, minimisation and diversion targets	Medium	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
57	Provide residents with an effective waste management service to meet their aspirations whilst continuing to deliver value for money	Medium	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	
58	Increase proportion of recycled materials used in Highway maintenance year on year	Long	Head of Street Services	Ongoing	

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
Affordable Warmth					
59	To ensure that energy awareness and advice reaches the most vulnerable members of the community	Medium	Home Improvement Agency Coordinator	Ongoing	
60	To raise the profile of energy awareness among LBC staff and other organisations/agencies in the Borough	Long	Home Improvement Agency Coordinator	Ongoing	
61	To implement the affordable warmth strategy for Luton Borough Council Housing stock and Registered Social Landlords	Long	Home Improvement Agency Coordinator	Ongoing	
62	To encourage and assist affordable Warmth programmes in the private sector	Long	Home Improvement Agency Coordinator	Ongoing	
63	Review all PSH policies around Decent homes to reflect and promote health improvement	Short	Environmental Health Manager	October 2010	
64	Achieve compliance with the Decent Homes Standard	Short	H of Housing-Landlord	Dec 2010	
65	Seek CESP funding and approval for grant funding for energy works	Long	CCT Team and Housing Landlord	2011	
Energy Policy					
66	'Smart' metering to be rolled out in school and other LBC buildings to accurately monitor gas and electricity use by Sept 2010	Medium	Corporate Energy Manager	September 2010	
67	Insulation works in key sites began in 2008 to reduce energy use and will continue on an annual basis	Ongoing	Corporate Energy Manager	April 2008 - March 2014	
68	Install a Building Energy Management System to effectively control energy use across Council sites from 2010 onwards	Medium	Corporate Energy Manager	March 2010 - March 2014	
69	Replacement and upgrade of lights and the installation of controls to operate lighting systems began in 2008 and will continue on an annual basis	Ongoing	Corporate Energy Manager	April 2008 - March 2014	

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
70	Sustainable Procurement				
71	Build sustainability into specifications and seek innovative solutions from contractors and suppliers when contracts come up for renewal	Medium	Corporate Procurement Manager	Ongoing	
72	Reduce the volume and value of manually processed invoices by routing all procurement through the corporate e.procurement system or approved systems integrated to the corporate financial system (25% reduction in invoices processed over last 3 years)	Medium	Corporate Procurement Manager	Ongoing	
73	Increase the volume of goods and services procured through collaborative procurement exercises <i>via</i> membership of Central Buying Consortium, PRO5 and other procurement bodies	Medium	Corporate Procurement Manager	Ongoing	
	Strategic Transport				
74	Improve access to jobs and community facilities particularly for vulnerable people	Long	Transportation Strategy Manager	Ongoing	
75	Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour	Long	Partnership Manager	Ongoing	
76	Improve peoples' health by encouraging and enabling more physically active travel	Long	Sustainable Travel Promotions Officer	Ongoing	
	Sustainable Travel to Schools				
77	All Schools to have approved School Travel Plans by 2010, review annually and update every three years	Medium	Road Safety Manager	Dec 2010	
78	Encourage walking & cycling to schools thro training & promotions	Ongoing	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
	Cycling and Walking Strategies				
79	Continue to monitor and improve walking environment including promotion of the 'Street Seen Champions' scheme	Ongoing	Highway Maintenance Manager	Ongoing	
80	Publicity and promotion programme to promote walking in Luton	Medium	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
81	Integrate walking with public transport	Medium	Transport Strategy Manager	Ongoing	

 = Urgent action required		 = Needs careful monitoring		 = On track	
No.	Actions	Comment	Owner	Due Date	Status
82	Develop and maintain a public rights of way network	Long	Highway Maintenance Manager	Ongoing	
83	Publicity and promotion of public rights of way	Long	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
84	Continue to maintain, improve and expand Luton's network of cycle routes	Ongoing	Traffic Engineering Manager	Ongoing	
85	Expand cycle training opportunities for children and adults who live or work in Luton	Long	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
86	Encourage cycling and cycle facilities to be included in School Travel Plans and Workplace Travel Plans	Ongoing	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
87	The Council will work with Active Luton and Luton Cultural Services Trust, from whom it commissions its Leisure and Cultural Services, to improve access to their sites and provisions for cycles to be kept securely whilst people use the sites	Ongoing	Commissioning Officer For Leisure & Culture	ongoing	
Road Safety					
88	Reduce risk of death/injury due to transport accidents, particularly for vulnerable users	Long	Road Safety Manager	Ongoing	
89	New Road Safety Strategy to be developed and published by March 2011	Medium	Road Safety Manager	March 2011	
90	Road Safety Engineering, Education, Training and Publicity and Enforcement plan to be drawn up and implemented for 2010/11	Medium	Road Safety Manager	2010/11	
Workplace Travel Plan					
91	Develop a Work Place Travel Plan	Long	Head of Engineering & Transportation	April 2011	

Station Gateway & The Luton-Dunstable Busway

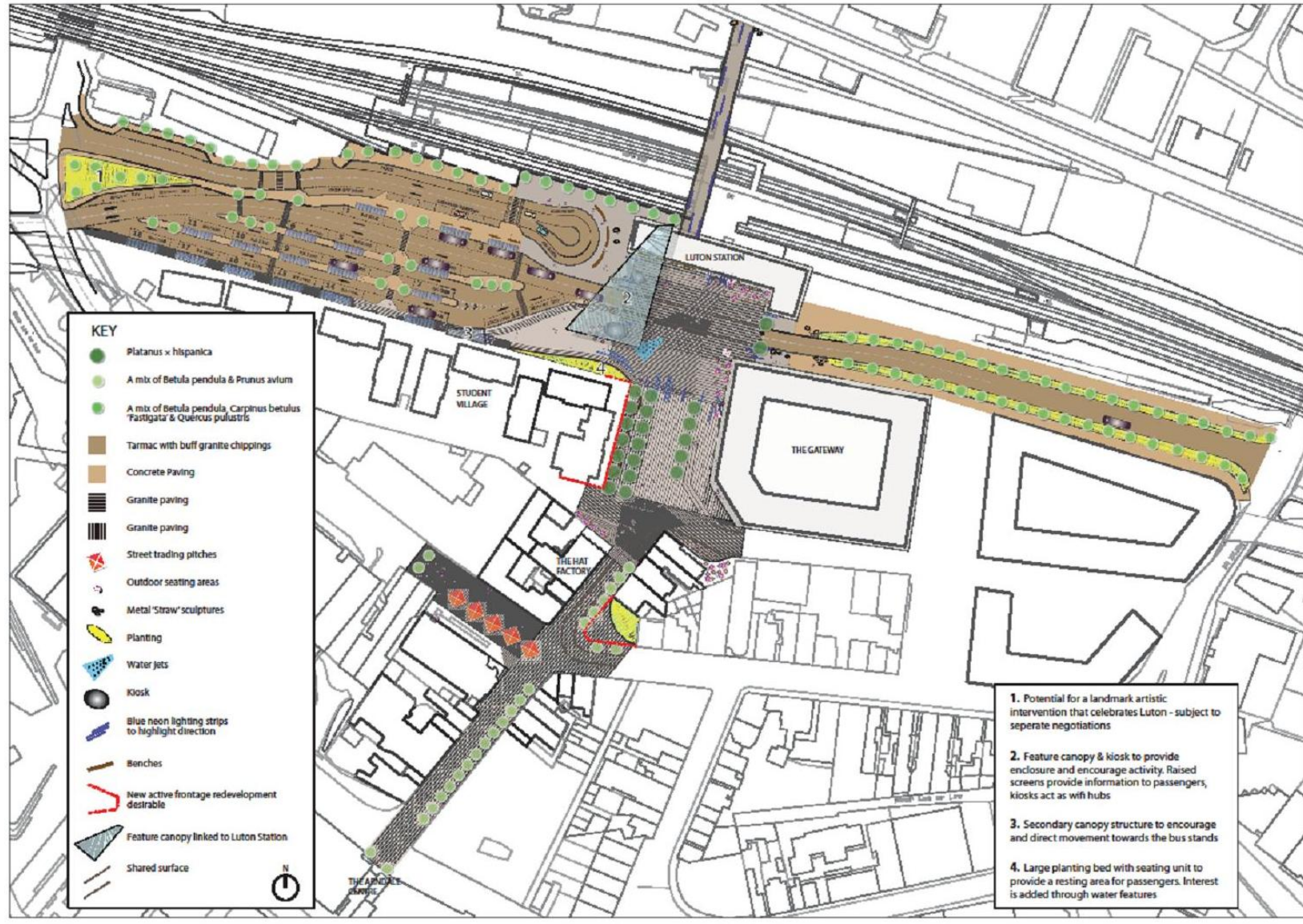


Image showing proposals for New Station Quarter

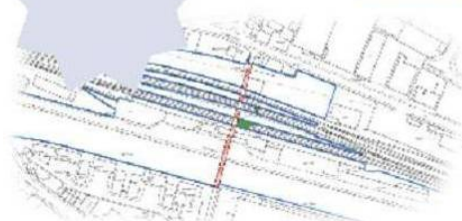
£150.5m secured for Luton Station quarter

Thameslink Platform Extensions and DDA footbridge

Status: Platform extensions currently under construction
Completion: Autumn 2010
completion scheduled for summer 2011
Cost: £16m
Delivered by: Network Rail

New high-town footbridge

Status: Construction starts April 2010
Completion: October 2010
Cost: £1.5m
Funding: Approved (LBC)
Delivered by: LBC



New multi-storey car park

Status: Under construction
Completion: May 2010
Cost: £20m
Funding: Approved (LBC)
Delivered by: Network Rail

Luton-Dunstable Guided Busway (inc. station interchange)

Status: Construction starts spring 2010
Completion: Early 2012
Cost: £84m
Delivered by: LBC



Luton Station Interchange & Inner Ring Road

Status: Construction starts April 2010
Completion: March 2012
Cost: £26m
Funding: Approved (LBC)
Delivered by: LBC



Station square project

Status: Construction April 2010 (interim square)
Completion: 2012
Cost: £3m
Funding: Developer contributions
Delivered by: LBC

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Warden Hill Meadow July 2009

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www.luton.gov.uk/environmentstrategy