



**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL /
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

of

**MID BEDFORDSHIRE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

SCOPING REPORT

December 2005

Prepared by

enfusion



SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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MID BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

SCOPING REPORT

<i>date:</i>	December 2005	
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Report

- 1.1 Mid Bedfordshire District Council (MBDC) is preparing their Local Development Framework (LDF), in accordance with the Planning Act 2004¹. As part of the development of the LDF, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is undertaken. Enfusion Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an independent SA on behalf of the Council. This report is the ‘Scoping Report’ for the SA of the LDF. (Further details about SA and the Scoping process are provided below in paragraphs 1.7-1.8).

Sustainable Development

- 1.2 ‘Sustainable Development’ is a term that has been commonly used since the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The UK Government has recently published a revised Sustainable Development Strategy². This sets out the aim of sustainable development – *“to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations”*. It lists four priority areas and five principles for sustainable development:

Priority Areas

- Sustainable Construction and Consumption
- Climate Change and Energy
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- Sustainable Communities

Principles

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy, just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.3 In accordance with the Planning Act (2004), LDFs must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). SA assists in promoting sustainable development through integrating sustainability considerations into plan making. It is an iterative, ongoing process and integral to plan making. LDFs are also required to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European and UK legislation.^{3 4} SEA considers the effects of the emerging LDF on the environment at the strategic level. It must predict and evaluate the

¹ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

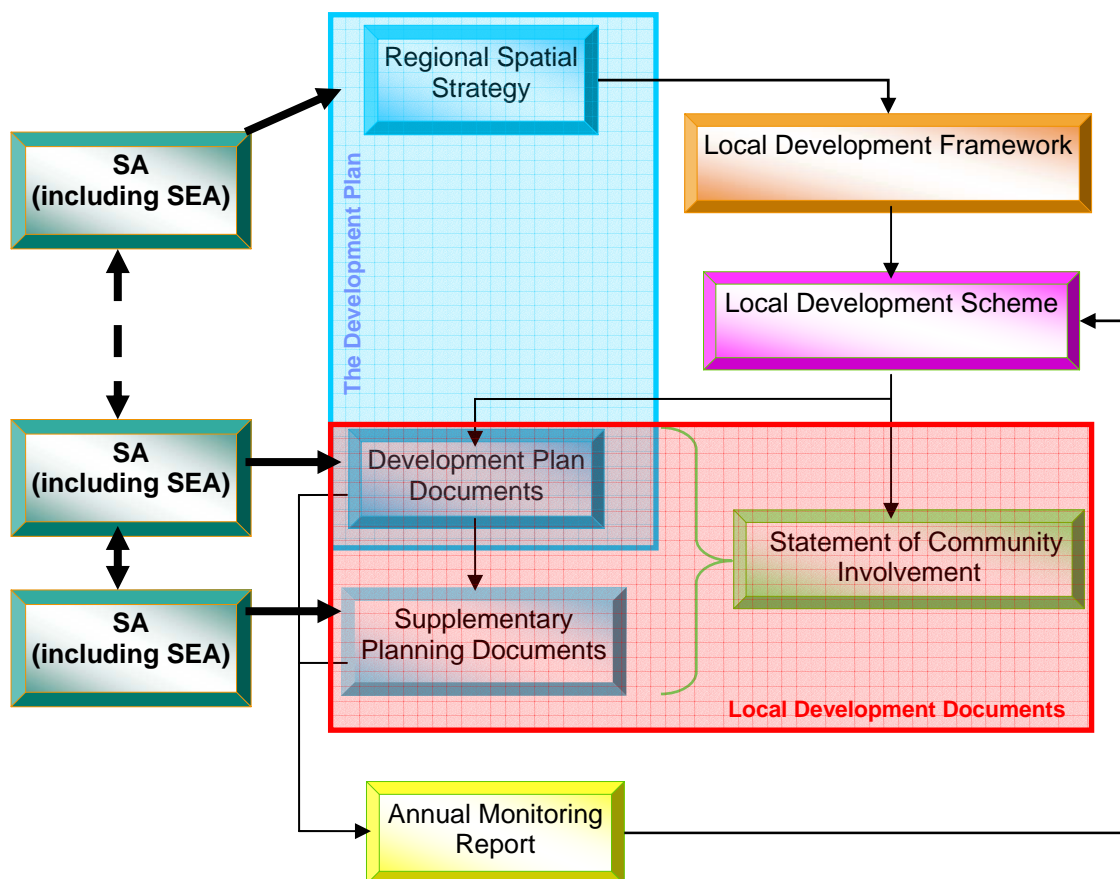
² Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy, March 2005

³ EU directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes

⁴ Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No 1633)

significant effects of Plan alternatives and propose measures to offset any adverse effects identified.

- 1.4 LDFs are required to be prepared in accordance with the relevant Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The emerging East of England RSS (which is also subject to SA and SEA) sets the strategic context for the extent of new development and the nature of spatial planning to be progressed at a local level. Mid Bedfordshire is also within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Region. The Sub-Regional Strategy was adopted in March 2005, and the Mid Bedfordshire LDF must also progress the relevant elements of this Sub-Regional approach. Both the LDF and the SA and SEA of the LDF should take account of their position in the hierarchy of plans, to ensure compatibility and avoid duplication of work. The diagram below shows how the RSS and Local Development Documents together make up the ‘Development Plan’, and their relationship with SA and SEA.



(Source: Government Offices for the Regions)

- 1.5 The UK Government has prepared Guidance⁵ on undertaking SA of LDFs. This advises that an integrated approach to SA and SEA should be pursued, so that the SA process incorporates the SEA requirements. This involves extending the breadth of (predominantly environmental) issues required to be considered under SEA to cover the full range of aspects (including social and economic aspects) for sustainability. Therefore, the SA for the Mid Beds LDF is being undertaken to incorporate the requirements of SEA as one integrated process. This integrated process is hereafter referred to in this document as SA.
- 1.6 By undertaking SA, it is possible to look at the LDF during its development and examine how it will contribute to the aims of sustainable development. Opportunities to enhance the contribution of the LDF to sustainable development will be identified. For example, by identifying potential problems (such as conflicts for sustainable development from different policy areas) at an early stage, it is possible to consider possible amendments to resolve the problem. The SA process documents the judgements that have been made about the probable sustainability impacts of the LDF, allowing people to consider the conclusions drawn and comment on whether they agree. SA also includes measures to monitor the sustainability impacts of the LDF during its implementation.

The Scoping Process

- 1.7 Because SA involves predicting the effects of the emerging LDF, it is important to base these predictions upon a sound understanding of the existing environmental, social and economic characteristics of the District, and how these are changing. This information is collated during the 'Scoping' stage of SA. Scoping is the first stage of the SA process, and information collated during Scoping is then used to develop sustainability objectives and indicators, against which elements of the LDF can be appraised. The Scoping process helps to ensure that the SA covers all of the key sustainability issues that are relevant within Mid Bedfordshire, and that are within the sphere of influence of the spatial planning system. (Key sustainability issues for Mid-Bedfordshire are set out in Section 4 of this Report).
- 1.8 The Scoping process includes the following key aspects:
- Identifying other relevant plans and programmes
 - Collecting relevant baseline information including social, economic and environmental information
 - Identifying sustainability problems, objectives and key issues for the SA and LDF to address
 - Developing the SA Framework consisting of the SA objectives to be used for appraisal, indicators and targets to be used for monitoring progress
 - Consulting on the Scope of the SA

⁵ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

Proposed Scope of Appraisal

- 1.9 LDFs comprise several Local Development Documents (LDDs) – of which ‘Development Plan Documents’ (DPDs) and ‘Supplementary Planning Documents’ (SPDs) are required to be subject to SA during their development. In the first instance, MBDC has set out a timetable for the preparation of four Development Plan Documents – the Core Strategy, the Development Control Policies, the Site Allocations, and the Gypsy and Traveller DPD. The different meanings and purposes of these LDDs are explained in the Local Development Scheme for Mid Bedfordshire (available at http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/services/planning/local_plan/local_development_framework.asp).
- 1.10 This Scoping Report sets the context for the SA of each of the Core Strategy, the Development Control Policies and the Site Specific Allocations. Enfusion Ltd has been commissioned to undertake the SA of these documents during their development. In time, additional LDDs (including topic and area-based LDDs) will be prepared and will also require SA. Again, this Scoping Report will provide the basis for the SA context, but depending upon the time elapsed and the specificity of subject or location being addressed, additional information may need to be collated to supplement this initial Scoping process.

Scoping Consultation

- 1.11 The aim of the Scoping consultation is to ensure that all the relevant issues are identified at this early stage of the process so they can then be addressed during the SA and plan making. The SEA regulations require that consultation on the scope of the appraisal should be undertaken with the four statutory SEA consultees (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, and the Environment Agency). Since we are progressing an integrated appraisal (considering social and economic as well as environmental aspects), we are also sending the Scoping Report to other key stakeholders, as well as making it available to the public on the Council’s Website (http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/services/planning/local_plan/local_development_framework.asp) to promote debate and engagement.
- 1.12 We would welcome your comments on the contents of this Scoping Report, and in particular on the questions set out below. Consultation is an important part of the process, and the SEA regulations require a statement to be made describing the way in which the results of consultation were taken into account. The consultation on the scope of the SA will run for six weeks, from Monday 19th December 2005 until Monday 30th January 2006. There will be further opportunities to comment on the judgements made during appraisal of emerging components of the LDF.

1.13 Consultees are invited to consider the following questions:

- Has an appropriate range of plans and strategies been considered (see Section 2 and Appendix I of this report)?
- Is there any additional or more up to date baseline data that should be included (see Section 3 and Appendix II of this report)?
- Do you agree with the key sustainability issues identified for Mid Bedfordshire?
- Are there any other relevant objectives and decision-aiding questions that could help with the appraisal (see SA Framework in Section 5 of this report)?
- Which measures are most appropriate for monitoring the sustainability effects of the LDF (see table of potential targets and indicators in Section 6 of this report)?

1.14 Please send responses by Monday 30th January 2006 to:

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- ◆ যদি অনুরোধ করেন তাহলে অন্য কোনও আকারে বা ভাষায় এই তথ্য আপনি পেতে পারেন।
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(Punjabi) (01767 602374)
- ◆ یہ معلومات آپ کے درخواست کرنے پر متبادل ڈیزائن یا زبان میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔
(Urdu) (01767 602374)

2.0 Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

- 2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA of the LDF it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of “*policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives*”⁶ that are relevant to the LDF. This includes International, EU, National, Regional and local level policies, plans and strategies. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives (hereafter referred to as ‘relevant plans’) promotes systematic identification of the ways in which the LDF could help fulfil them.
- 2.2 A thorough Review of relevant plans was undertaken as part of the SA and SEA of the emerging East of England RSS. This included relevant International, National, Regional and Sub Regional plans. This Review of relevant plans is set out in Appendix C of the South East Regional Assembly’s Sustainability Report, which can be downloaded from <http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=382>.
- 2.3 Relevant plans for the LDF and SA have also been compiled by MBDC, as part of the development of the evidence base for the LDF. For each relevant plan, requirements and applicable sections for the LDF have been distilled from the document. This will continue to be updated. However, the current version (available at the time of writing) can be viewed on MBDC’s Website at (http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/services/planning/local_plan/local_development_framework.asp).
- 2.4 For efficiency, and to avoid duplication, these Reviews have not been repeated as part of this Scoping process, but have been supplemented by the collation and review of additional relevant plans not included in either of the aforementioned reviews, but important for consideration as part of the setting of the context for SA. In view of the Regional SA having detailed relevant International, National, Regional and Sub Regional plans, we have focused upon County and Local plans. Consideration was given to any key constraints, opportunities, challenges or synergies for the LDF to be taken into account during SA. This supplementary Review is presented in Appendix I.

⁶ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

3.0 Baseline Review/Information

- 3.1 Collection of baseline information is required under SEA legislation, and is fundamental to the SA process to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in Mid Bedfordshire, and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the LDF. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the LDF will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is essential to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in Mid Bedfordshire today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the District to allow the potential effects of the LDF to be adequately predicted.
- 3.2 ODPM's SA Guidance proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available, and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making and as new information becomes available.
- 3.3 MBDC has undertaken an extensive data collation exercise for the preparation of a State of the Environment Report. We have drawn upon this information to prepare a summary of baseline information of key relevance for the SA context. Again, this avoids unnecessary duplication of effort. We assessed the completeness of this information in terms of compliance with SA and SEA guidance and legislation (which requires that certain topic areas are included). Where there were data gaps (topics for sustainability not considered), or where additional data was available, we supplemented the information drawing upon a variety of data sources. These included National, Regional, County and Local datasets and resources published on the Internet and in relevant documents.
- 3.4 SA Guidance advises that, where possible, information should be collated to include:
- 'comparators' – (ie the same information for different areas) - as points of reference against which local data may be compared
 - established targets, which will highlight how far the current situation is from such thresholds
 - trends – to ascertain whether the situation is currently improving or deteriorating
- 3.5 The baseline information has been compiled in a table showing data for Mid Bedfordshire compared with data, where available, for Bedfordshire, the East of England, and England and Wales. We have also sought to identify targets and trends, and summarise the key issues arising for particular SA topics. This table is presented in Appendix II. Some of the key characteristics apparent from the baseline information are summarised in Section 4.

4.0 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FOR MID BEDFORDSHIRE

- 4.1 It is important to distil the key sustainability issues, problems and objectives relevant to the District from the collated information. This section sets out a characterisation of the District (informed by the review of relevant plans and baseline information), followed by a succinct list of key sustainability issues for Mid Bedfordshire. These issues are considered to be priorities for consideration through the Sustainability Appraisal, and the SA Framework of sustainability objectives (detailed in Section 5) seeks to attend to them.

Characterisation

- 4.2 Geographically, Mid Bedfordshire is the largest district in Bedfordshire, which also contains South Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. It covers approximately 50,000 hectares and contains a number of towns and villages, separated by extensive areas of open countryside. Much of the District exhibits a high quality natural environment, which has been extensively shaped by agricultural activity.
- 4.3 Mid Bedfordshire has a population of over 121,000, and approximately 52,000 households. The largest settlements are Flitwick (12,933), Biggleswade (11,700), Sandy (10,887), and Amphill (6,897), all of which have expanded with the building of modern estates. Mid Bedfordshire is one of the most rapidly growing districts in England. It has undergone a 10% increase in population from 1991 to 2001, which is over double the average for England. With substantial planned housing development, this looks set to continue. The population is forecast to increase to around 130,000 within the next decade.
- 4.4 The economy of Mid Bedfordshire is strong in comparison with the rest of the UK. Of the 376 local authority areas in England and Wales, Mid Beds has the twelfth highest employment rate – with only 1.2% unemployment. The District also enjoys higher than average pay, a broad mix of industry types and a growing number of firms. Historically, the largest sectors in Mid Bedfordshire have been agriculture and manufacturing. Employment in both agriculture and manufacturing have declined – with 17.3% of the workforce now employed directly in manufacturing, and only 3% employed in agriculture (although it is considered important to retain agricultural as a component of the economic composition of the District).
- 4.5 This decline in manufacturing and agriculture has been offset by an increase in service based activities. The largest single sectors are now Public Administration, Education and Health (27.2%) and Distribution (20.1%). The District has high level of professional and senior employees compared to the East of England Region and the UK. However, many of the Mid Bedfordshire residents employed in professional and senior roles commute out of the District to work.
- 4.6 Tourism is a growing sector that is increasing in its value to the local economy, by embracing Mid Bedfordshire's environmental and historic assets. Valued at

around £100 million per year and employing almost 3000 people, the sector experienced growth of 46% between 1996 and 2000.

- 4.7 According to the Mid Bedfordshire Community Plan (2003), compared with other local authority areas, Mid Bedfordshire is an affluent District, (ranking 327 out of 354 local authority areas, where a score of 1 is the most deprived and 354 the least). However, problems of deprivation do exist within Mid Bedfordshire, and are becoming more marked in places as a result of escalating house prices, which put home ownership beyond the means of many residents. The average price rose from £146,315 in 2002 to £196,902 in 2003. With strong north-south transport links and two mainline railway services, the District lies on the fringe of the London housing market, and this has contributed to the rising house prices.
- 4.8 The good transport links also make the District susceptible to high levels of out-commuting. The proximity and easy of access by rail and road to areas such as Milton Keynes, Bedford, Cambridge, Stevenage and London means that a substantial number of residents now work outside the District. This encourages spending outside the District, and creates congestion. Meanwhile, transport infrastructure and services between communities within the District is much less well-developed which further encourages out-commuting and high car ownership. Car ownership in Mid Bedfordshire is very high relative to the County, Region, and the UK, with almost half of households owning two or more cars. With 70.1% of travel to work by car, there is considerable potential to promote modal shift away from the private car for commuters. However, bus links between many villages are infrequent.
- 4.9 Mid Bedfordshire includes a varied and contrasting landscape. The Greensand Ridge is of high biodiversity value and comprises extensive woodlands, remnant heaths and acid grasslands, as well as open spaces for locals and visitors. The heathlands of the Greensand Ridge are amongst very few examples of this habitat in central England. Mid Bedfordshire also contains examples of national priority chalk grassland and wetland habitats.
- 4.10 Mid Bedfordshire is the most heavily wooded part of Bedfordshire. The Forest of Marston Vale is one of only 12 Community Forests throughout the UK and has made a significant impact in regenerating the local environment, whilst providing communities with access to green space. A small part of Mid Bedfordshire falls within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty. The District contains a wide and interesting range of medieval settlements and sites and has a rich built and archaeological heritage. There are 1,385 Listed Buildings and 37 designated Conservation Areas within the District.
- 4.11 The high quality of the natural environment in Mid Bedfordshire is coming under development pressure from several directions, with Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Stevenage and Cambridge all expanding fast. The rapid growth in population and households also puts substantial additional strain upon natural resources. In particular, the East of England is a relatively dry Region, and water resource availability is limited.

- 4.12 Mid Bedfordshire has long provided landfill capacity for waste (largely within worked out clay-pits) from a large area of South East England, particularly Greater London. Some landfill sites are old, having been begun in the 1940s, and are not built to high environmental specifications. Current landfills are at or close to capacity. Several capped landfills are now receiving additional waste where the original waste has degraded and subsided.

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.13 The following key sustainability issues are considered to be priorities for sustainability, arising from the particular characteristics, pressures and opportunities currently affecting Mid Bedfordshire:
- i. Mid Bedfordshire is experiencing rapid population growth, and is subject to intense development pressure. This will need to be carefully managed to ensure that growth is well integrated with existing development, with good design to promote a sense of identity.
 - ii. Mid Bedfordshire has become a popular place to live with people working outside of the District. This has resulted from the availability of cheaper housing than in London and Hertfordshire, alongside the District's accessibility by rail and road to areas such as Milton Keynes, Bedford, Cambridge, Stevenage and London. The associated out-commuting can result in unsustainable transport patterns, and less balanced communities.
 - iii. House prices within the District have risen considerably, putting home ownership beyond the means of many people working in the less well paid jobs within Mid Bedfordshire. This exacerbates Issue ii (above), since those people who can afford to buy houses within Mid Bedfordshire are often those who work outside the District.
 - iv. Levels of car ownership and use in the District are very high, and reducing reliance on the car is hindered by the relatively scattered population distribution. This causes problems for sustainability associated with emissions, and difficulties in providing viable and convenient public transport.
 - v. Mid Bedfordshire contains many valued landscapes, woodlands, habitats and species, as well a diversity of historic assets. Development pressure must be managed in such a way as to continue to protect and enhance these resources.
 - vi. The East of England is a relatively dry region, with limited available water resources. The extent and distribution of new development will need to have regard to water availability, and incorporate water efficiency measures.
 - vii. Mid Bedfordshire continues to receive waste for landfill from a large area of South East England, including Greater London. However, landfill sites are nearing or at capacity, and there is a need to support the development of alternatives to landfill.

- 4.14 The SA Framework presented in the next Section sets out objectives to address these issues. The Framework also includes objectives relating to, for example, generation of renewable energy which, whilst not specific to Mid Bedfordshire, is a crucial component of sustainable development and needs to be progressed everywhere.

5.0 Proposed SA Framework

- 5.1 The proposed SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of emerging Local Development Documents will be described, analysed and compared. It includes a number of sustainability objectives, elaborated by ‘decision-aiding questions’. These have been distilled from the information collated during the review of relevant Plans and Programmes and the review of Baseline Information (as detailed in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, respectively), the key sustainability issues identified (as detailed in Section 4 of this report), as well as from discussions with planning professionals with extensive experience working in Mid Bedfordshire.
- 5.2 The sustainability objectives seek to address and progress the main sustainability issues and opportunities identified as important in Mid Bedfordshire. The decision-aiding questions assist by clarifying the detail of the issues, improving objectivity, ensuring that the appraisal is relevant to land use planning, and making the SA Framework more locally specific.
- 5.3 The SEA Directive requires that the effects of the LDF upon biodiversity; landscape; cultural heritage; water; air; climatic factors; soil; flora; fauna; human health; population and material assets are considered. To demonstrate compliance with the SEA Directive, we have also indicated within the SA Framework which sustainability objectives progress which of these SEA topics. (The relevant SEA topics are *italicised* within the Framework).
- 5.4 Undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Local Development Documents will involve appraising components of Local Development Documents (such as options and policies) against the SA Framework. For each option/policy, a matrix will be prepared. Within the matrix, a ‘score’ will be assigned for each sustainability objective, as shown below, accompanied by commentary setting out the justification for the score. The scores and commentary will then be used to identify opportunities to reduce conflicts with sustainability objectives, and increase progression of sustainability objectives. These will be detailed in a Sustainability Report and presented to Mid Bedfordshire District Council in the form of recommendations for the emerging LDDs. An example of a blank appraisal matrix is presented at the end of this Section.

++	Option/Policy will considerably progress the sustainability objective
+	Option/Policy will progresses the sustainability objective to an extent
0	No effect – the option/policy will not affect the sustainability objective
-	Option/Policy will conflict with the sustainability objective to an extent
--	Option/Policy will conflict considerably with the sustainability objective
?	Effect unclear – it is not possible to tell how the option/policy will affect the sustainability objective

**SA/SEA of Mid Bedfordshire Local Development Framework:
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Table 1 Proposed SA Framework

	SA Objective	Decision-Aiding Question Will it (the Policy)...?
Building Communities (<i>SEA Topics: Population; Human Health; Cultural Heritage</i>)		
1	Promote communities that meet people's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to address existing shortages of facilities, particularly in smaller communities ▪ Promote balanced communities with a range of housing size and tenure ▪ Reduce exclusion of groups including the young and the elderly ▪ Provide spaces for the development of social networks, such as open spaces, community halls, and recreational facilities. ▪ Promote an appropriate hierarchy of viable centres ▪ Protect and enhance the character and identity of towns and villages
Infrastructure (<i>SEA Topics: Material Assets</i>)		
2	Ensure provision of infrastructure and facilities appropriately phased with new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure infrastructure keeps pace with the growing population ▪ Promote measures to minimise additional pressure on infrastructure (such as roads, water supply, water treatment, flood defence) resulting from new development ▪ Accommodate enhancements to the network of Green Infrastructure
Housing (<i>SEA Topics: Population</i>)		
3	Provide good quality housing for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver affordable housing ▪ Recognise the role of Mid Bedfordshire to accommodate housing growth within the regional and sub regional context ▪ Provide accommodation to meet the needs of different sectors of the community, including the elderly, gypsies and travellers, and students
Economy and Employment (<i>SEA Topics: Population</i>)		
4	Secure an economically buoyant future with quality employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure employment opportunities and reduce out-commuting ▪ Make the most of gateways and national and regional transport corridors ▪ Promote economic diversification ▪ Provide for economic clusters ▪ Recognise the economic role of Mid Bedfordshire within the strategic context, including the sub region ▪ Promote good quality tourism which respects its environmental and social surroundings ▪ Promote viable retail appropriate to settlement size
Transport (<i>SEA Topics: Air; Climatic Factors; Population; Material Assets</i>)		
5	Reduce dependence on the car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance the quality, capacity and flexibility of public transport ▪ Improve public transport links within (not just into and out of) the District ▪ Enhance and extend opportunities for walking and

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	SA Objective	Decision-Aiding Question Will it (the Policy)...?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cycling ▪ Locate development so as to reduce the need to travel by car ▪ Focus most growth within the main settlements
Health (SEA Topics: Human Health)		
6	Provide an environment that leads to a healthy and safe lifestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make safe provision for walking and cycling ▪ Protect and increase provision of public open space and allotments accessible to residents ▪ Promote design that reduces crime and the fear of crime
Water (SEA Topics: Water)		
7	Promote sustainable water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce demand for water resources ▪ Have regard to availability of water resources when planning growth ▪ Ensure all new development incorporates water efficiency measures such as grey water recycling ▪ Promote sustainable flood risk management
Waste (SEA Topics: Material Assets)		
8	Promote sustainable waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have regard to the waste hierarchy ▪ Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste ▪ Accommodate new recycling facilities, both for existing and new development ▪ Take account of the Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Development Framework ▪ Determine the waste management function of Marston Vale in the context of its role as a designated growth area within the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy
Climate Change (SEA Topics: Climatic Factors)		
9	Reduce the contribution to and manage the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions ▪ Have regard to the likely impacts of climate change ▪ Promote sustainable drainage
Energy (SEA Topics: Climatic Factors; Population; Material Assets)		
10	Enhance energy efficiency and increase production from renewable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage renewable energy proposals, including micro-generation ▪ Insist upon a proportion of renewable energy generation in all new development ▪ Promote reductions in domestic, commercial and vehicular energy consumption ▪ Encourage Combined Heat and Power (CHP), and passive solar gain
Sustainable Construction (SEA Topics: Air; Water; Climatic Factors)		
11	Insist upon sustainable construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure inclusion of energy and water efficiency measures in all new development ▪ Promote reuse of existing building materials on-site ▪ Promote use of locally sourced construction materials ▪ Audit sustainable construction by use of

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	SA Objective	Decision-Aiding Question Will it (the Policy)...?
		BREEAM or Eco-Home standards
Biodiversity (<i>SEA Topics: Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna</i>)		
12	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend the network of sites and species of nature conservation value, both those statutorily designated and those of local value ▪ Protect and enhance those species and habitats identified in the BAP ▪ Prevent habitat fragmentation and create habitat corridors ▪ Conserve ancient or semi-natural features such as woodlands, hedgerows, old meadows and ponds ▪ Increase the area of acid grassland/heathland in the Greensand Ridge ▪ Further the aims of the Community Forest, including increasing woodland cover ▪ Promote biodiversity in Green Infrastructure
Landscape (<i>SEA Topics: Landscape</i>)		
13	Conserve and enhance the landscape, whilst increasing opportunities to enjoy it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain a high quality visual environment, and promote reinforcement of landscape character ▪ Avoid adverse impacts upon the landscape resulting from new development ▪ Promote opportunities to enjoy the countryside
Built Environment (<i>SEA Topics: Cultural Heritage; Population</i>)		
14	Secure high standards of design, and protect and enhance the character of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure high standards of design in all new development ▪ Conserve and enhance the character of the District's towns and villages ▪ Secure improvements to the public realm ▪ Protect and enhance Listed Buildings and their settings, as well as Conservation Areas
Historic and Cultural Heritage (<i>SEA Topics: Cultural Heritage</i>)		
15	Help ensure the historic and cultural heritage is protected and enjoyed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance the historic environment, including ancient monuments and sites of archaeological interest ▪ Promote sustainable access to and interpretation of historic and cultural sites
Land and Soils (<i>SEA Topics: Soil</i>)		
16	Make efficient use of land and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure higher density development ▪ Reuse empty properties ▪ Remediate contaminated sites ▪ Protect productive agricultural land ▪ Use previously developed land
Pollution (<i>SEA Topics: Human Health; Air; Water; Soil</i>)		
17	Reduce pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce and manage noise pollution ▪ Minimise light pollution ▪ Reduce harmful emissions to air ▪ Reduce pollution of water

Table 2 Example of an Appraisal Matrix

Sustainability Objective	Assessment of effect ++ + 0 - -- ?	Relevant baseline information	Justification for assessment, with reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likelihood of effect occurring ▪ Permanence of Effect ▪ Geographic scale of effect ▪ Cumulative effects ▪ Current environmental, social and economic trends of affected area ▪ Likelihood of affecting particularly sensitive locations Plus recommendations for mitigating negative effects and improving positive effects
1 Promote communities that meet people's needs			
2 Ensure provision of infrastructure and facilities appropriately phased with new development			
3 Provide good quality housing for all			
4 Secure an economically buoyant future with quality employment opportunities			
5 Reduce dependence on the car			
6 Provide an environment that leads to a healthy and safe lifestyle			
7 Promote sustainable water management			
8 Promote sustainable waste management			
9 Reduce the contribution to and manage the effects of climate change			
10 Enhance energy efficiency and increase production from renewable sources			
11 Insist upon sustainable construction			

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Sustainability Objective	Assessment of effect ++ + 0 - -- ?	Relevant baseline information	Justification for assessment, with reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likelihood of effect occurring ▪ Permanence of Effect ▪ Geographic scale of effect ▪ Cumulative effects ▪ Current environmental, social and economic trends of affected area ▪ Likelihood of affecting particularly sensitive locations Plus recommendations for mitigating negative effects and improving positive effects
12 Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species			
13 Conserve and enhance the landscape, whilst increasing opportunities to enjoy it			
14 Secure high standards of design, and protect and enhance the character of the built environment			
15 Help ensure the historic and cultural heritage is protected and enjoyed			
16 Make efficient use of land and soils			
17 Reduce pollution			

6.0 Potential Targets and Indicators

- 6.1 This section discusses potential indicators and targets to help monitor the sustainability effects of the LDF. At this stage we have identified possible targets and/or indicators for each sustainability objective (from the SA Framework) to provide a suggested list for discussion. The SEA Directive requires that a ‘monitoring strategy’ is prepared for publication at a later stage, and we would anticipate drawing upon the potential indicators and targets suggested here, selecting and refining them into a manageable approach (in consultation with MBDC) for monitoring the main significant sustainability effects of the LDF. It is important that the monitoring strategy is informed by the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Local Development Documents, to ensure that it is sensitive to the likely significant effects identified during appraisal.
- 6.2 The Planning Act (2004) requires local planning authorities to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). According to recent guidance from ODPM, “*These need to include the findings of SA monitoring*”⁷. Accordingly, the monitoring strategy for the SA will ensure integration with the LDF AMR. MBDC is currently in the process of preparing proposals for the LDF AMR. The emerging AMR proposals include indicators which can also be used to meet the requirements for SA monitoring, and we have sought to link to such indicators within the table of potential targets and indicators. (These are *italicised* within the table).
- 6.3 Comments/suggestions regarding these and other potential targets and indicators, as well as possible sources of data, would be welcome.

Table 3 Potential Targets and Indicators

	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
	Building Communities	
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parishes with a GP, post office, play area, pub, village hall ▪ <i>Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres</i> ▪ <i>Mix of housing tenure</i> within settlements
	Infrastructure	
2	Achieve Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard</i>
	Housing	
3	At least 28% affordable housing on new qualifying sites throughout the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Percentage of households rented from the Council or in Housing Association/Registered Social Landlords properties</i> ▪ Percentage of new housing which is affordable ▪ Average house price compared with average earnings

⁷ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

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	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Housing Completions</i>
Economy and Employment		
4	Reduce the number of residents of Mid Beds travelling out of the District to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of employees commuting out of the District to work ▪ <i>Amount of land developed for employment (by type)</i>
Transport		
5	Increase travel to school/work by means other than the car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car ownership ▪ Mode of travel to work/school ▪ <i>percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre</i>
Health		
6	Achieve Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Life expectancy
Water		
7	Decrease water consumption per household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groundwater levels ▪ Percentage of new development incorporating water efficiency measures ▪ Water consumption per household
Waste		
8	Reduce tonnage of waste to landfill Household waste recovery 50% at 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tonnage of waste to landfill ▪ Recycling rate ▪ Waste recovery rate
Climate Change		
9	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greenhouse gas emissions
Energy		
10	Renewable energy to meet 10% of the District's energy consumption by 2010 and 17% by 2020 All new development to include a proportion of renewable energy generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Renewable energy capacity installed by type</i> ▪ Percentage of new development including renewable energy generation ▪ Energy consumption
Sustainable Construction		
11	All new development to meet BREEAM very good or excellent standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of new development incorporating energy and water efficiency measures, and sustainable drainage systems ▪ Percentage of new development meeting BREEAM very good/excellent standards ▪ Percentage use of aggregates from secondary and recycled sources
Biodiversity		
12	Achieve BAP targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance</i> ▪ Condition of designated sites ▪ Change in area of woodland ▪ Proportion of new developments delivering

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	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
		habitat creation or restoration
	Landscape	
13	All new development to demonstrate compatibility with countryside character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hectares of new development outside settlement boundaries ▪ Hedgerow and/or veteran tree loss
	Built Environment	
14	Reduce the number of Listed Buildings at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Listed Buildings at risk</i>
	Historic and Cultural Heritage	
15	All new development to take into account historic assets and/or demonstrate links with cultural context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Condition of Conservation Areas ▪ Number of historic parks and gardens
	Land and Soils	
16	At least 60% of all new development using previously developed land or reusing buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Use of previously developed land</i> ▪ <i>Density of new residential development</i> ▪ Number of sites/hectares decontaminated as a result of new development
	Pollution	
17	Reduce pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of complaints about noise received by the Council

**APPENDIX I SUPPLEMENTARY REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, & EXAMPLES OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES
IDENTIFIED FROM RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS**

SUPPLEMENTARY REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS

Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
Housing Requirements Study 2003 (Mid Beds District Council)	<p>There is a significant affordability problem in Mid Bedfordshire, which has experienced significant increases in house prices in recent years. Average prices have increased by 61% since 1999, whilst gross weekly pay has increased by 22%.</p> <p>There will be an annual overall need for 916 housing units of all types and tenures. Between 260 and 284 of these units will need to be affordable housing, equating to between 28% and 31% of all housing need. The council executive has agreed that 28% of all qualifying housing will be sought as affordable.</p>	<p>28% of all qualifying housing will be sought as affordable</p> <p>At least 44% of affordable homes should be social rented</p>	The SA will need to help ensure that LDF policy is capable of delivering these requirements
Supplementary Planning Guidance on affordable housing – June 2004 (Mid Beds District Council)		The Corporate High Level Target HLT3 states that – ‘to ensure that planning policies secure at least 28% affordable housing on new qualifying sites throughout the district’	The SA will need to help ensure that LDF policy is capable of delivering these requirements
Cycling and walking strategy for Mid	Aims and objectives · the achievement of conditions in Mid Bedfordshire where cycling	To increase levels of cycling from 3.6%	The SA can help ensure that allocations include safe and

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Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
Bedfordshire (Mid Bedfordshire District Council)	<p>and walking are seen as natural choices of modes for leisure and shorter trips and to encourage the necessary facilities to promote safe, enjoyable cycle and footpath use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · general public acceptance and awareness of the positive role of cycling and walking in travel, environmental, health and social terms · the creation of safe, convenient and attractive conditions both within and between settlements to encourage cyclists and walkers of all ages and experience · to encourage, promote and obtain improved facilities for cycling and walking within new development through the planning process · to promote a series of local cycle networks within settlements in Mid Bedfordshire and where appropriate, encourage links to the National cycle route network · to promote opportunities for multi modal travel linking cycling with public transport 	from 1991 census to 10% by 2011	convenient provision for walking and cycling
Mid Bedfordshire Anti Poverty Strategy (Mid Beds District Council)	<p>Strategic Aim 1: To identify, assess, and raise awareness of, the extent and form of poverty and social exclusion within the district.</p> <p>Strategic Aim 2: To ensure particular attention is paid to the problem of, and potential solutions to, rural poverty.</p> <p>Mid Bedfordshire District Council has always been aware of the particular rural context of the district and how it influences our services and the lives of the Mid Bedfordshire community. We</p>		The SA will need to recognise existing problems of poverty and social exclusion (including through rural isolation) and ensure that LDF policy helps redress the issues

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Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
	<p>operate within a district where people are living in small, scattered towns and parishes. Their disparate needs are less easily met through the large scale concentration of services possible in urban areas. Inadequate rural transport facilities can make it difficult or impossible to travel great distances to reach services. There is a significant role for the Council to play, therefore, in helping to maintain and extend existing local services; and to support organizations that cater for rural needs by taking services direct to the community.</p> <p>Strategic Aim 3: To work to address poverty and social exclusion through Council services and policies and through partnership working with others.</p> <p>Strategic Aim 4: To monitor and evaluate the effects of Council and partnership anti-poverty and social exclusion initiatives.</p> <p>Strategic Objectives: Income Maximization Accessible Services Community Development and Support Corporate Awareness and Integration</p>		
<p>Mid Bedfordshire health of the economy report – issue 3, April 2005 (Mid Beds District Council)</p>	<p>There is a peaking of the population in the 30-50 age group (most are in the 35-39 age group).</p> <p>Economy – principle concentrations within Mid Bedfordshire and Beds are Public Administration, including education and health</p>		<p>The SA should help ensure the LDF accommodates appropriate opportunities for economic development, taking account of sectoral priorities</p>

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Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
	<p>workers, distribution, manufacturing and finance</p> <p>2001 – Mid Bedfordshire showed a substantial net commute (18,674 residents)</p> <p>The agricultural sector is in decline and at risk. This is shown by the net decrease in the number of such companies in recent years.</p>		
<p>Supplementary Planning Guidance – Wildlife in Development 2003 (Mid Bedfordshire District Council)</p>	<p>Government Objective for Nature Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To ensure that its policies contribute to the conservation of the abundance and diversity of British Wildlife and its habitats · To minimise the adverse effects on wildlife where conflict of interest is unavoidable; · To meet its international responsibilities and obligations for nature conservation <p>Mid Bedfordshire DC Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To protect and enhance SSSI, County Wildlife Sites and other valued wildlife habitats · To protect rare species · To protect and enhance the Districts total wildlife resources; and · To implement a Nature Conservation Strategy for Bedfordshire and the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan 		<p>The potential for all LDF policy to contribute to nature conservation will be considered by the SA.</p>
<p>Design guide for residential areas in Mid</p>	<p>Design objectives for sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - active frontages should predominate within the scheme 		<p>The objectives in this guide will be used when developing the SA</p>

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Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
Bedfordshire (Mid Beds District Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - connections to nodal points, both existing and potential should influence street layout - creation of safe and convenient walk able neighbourhoods 		framework and when appraising LDF policy
What future rural Bedfordshire? (Bedfordshire Rural Affairs Forum)	<p>Lists the 9 key action priorities – relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stronger voice for rural communities · Planning · Affordable housing · Business · Transport · Food and farming · Young people · Environment · Information 		In recognition of rural priorities, the SA will seek to ensure that the specific issues facing rural areas are fully addressed in LDF policy
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (Mid Beds District Council)	<p>Due to its rural location the District boasts a great variety of protected sites that are proudly its major assets; these are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under S.28 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. -7 Local Nature Reserves (LNR), declared under S21 of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 -1 National Nature Reserve (NNR), declared under S.16 off the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 -14 registered parks and gardens of Special Historic Interest -Approx. 147 County Wildlife Sites. 		

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Other plan / programmes	Details/Objectives of requirements of other plans and programmes	Key targets and indicators relevant to plans and SA	Implications for SA / SEA
Invest in the success of the forest of Marston Vale, a guide for developers landowners and planners (Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, Forest of Marston Value, Beds County Council, Bedford Borough Council, Mid Beds District Council)	<p>The Marston Vale in Bedfordshire is recognised as a strategic growth corridor in the 1997 Structure Plan., it is also the location of one of England’s 12 community forests.</p> <p>The forest of Marston Vale was established in 1991. It covers an area of 61 square miles and is located in a regionally recognised strategic corridor between Bedford and the M1 near to Milton Keynes, with considerable development potential. 650,000 people live in or within 20 kms of the forest and the population of the area is rapidly rising.</p>	30% tree cover by 2031 creating a diverse, distinctive, well-managed and valued forest area with a unique and special sense of place	The SA will help ensure that the LDF accommodates the aims of the Community Forest

EXAMPLES OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED FROM RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS

International

- Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - aims to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a safe level
- Directive for the promotion of electricity from renewable energy (2001/77/EC)
The EU target (suggested a guideline for national targets) is for renewables to account for 10% of UK consumption by 2010
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) - Requires the review and analysis of river basin characteristics and assessments of human and economic impacts therein, and the achievement of sustainable water use
- Waste Framework Directive (75/442/EEC, as amended) requires Member States to encourage the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use, reclamation or any other process with a view to extracting secondary raw materials, or the use of waste as a source of energy

National

- Planning Policy Statement 1 ('Delivering Sustainable Development') sets out a primary purpose for planning to progress sustainable development
- Planning Policy Statement 6 ('Planning for Town Centres') seeks to promote vital and viable city, town and other centres by planning for the growth of existing centres, and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all
- Planning Policy Statement 7 ('Sustainable Development in Rural Areas') requires that development within and outside existing villages should be permitted where it meets local economic and community needs, where it maintains or enhances the environment and does not conflict with other policies
- Planning Policy Guidance note 13 ('Transport') requires active management of the pattern of urban growth and the location of major travel generating development to make the fullest use of public transport, and to encourage walking and cycling
- Planning Policy Guidance note 21 ('Tourism') sets out the need to ensure land use is distributed and managed in such a way that it supports the qualities that underpin the tourism industry
- Planning Policy Statement 22 ('Renewable Energy') requires that Local Development Documents contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources

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- ‘Working with the Grain of Nature’ – A Biodiversity Strategy for England emphasises the need to ensure that biodiversity considerations are embedded in all main sectors of economic activity
- ‘The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future’ sets out the need for the development of policies to realise the economic and educational potential of historic resources

Regional

- The Regional Economic Strategy: ‘A Shared Vision’ (2004) sets out objectives to develop a skills base that can support a world-class economy, to grow competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship, and make the most of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors
- The Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2001) provides an overview of regional strengths and distinctiveness, including history, non-conformist and living culture, diverse economy and relative wealth, but noting pockets of deprivation
- The East of England Regional Social Strategy (2004) sets out objectives to tackle poverty and reduce income inequalities, promote access to work and services, reduce exclusion of the elderly, ensure economic development impacts positively on deprived areas, and providing opportunities for the development of social networks
- ‘Living with Climate Change in the East of England’ seeks to identify the major impacts, issues and opportunities that climate change will produce in the region, including hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters, and decrease in soil moisture content
- Towns and Cities Strategy and Action Plan, Urban Renaissance in The East Of England describes how dispersed development in the region has led to high car use, and that people who live in the East of England travel further to work than in any other region
- Towards Sustainable Construction – A Strategy for the East of England (2003) suggests some ‘quick fixes’ which can make a major difference, including reuse of existing physical resources on-site to save on import and export costs, use of sustainable drainage systems, and planning and construction to protect and enhance site biodiversity
- The Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (2005) describes how there is no dominant focus or urban centre in the sub-region. It includes sub-regional area strategies, including for Bedfordshire and Luton which identifies Bedford/Kempston/northern Marston Vale as an economic growth area

Local

- The Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan 2001 sets out objectives including creation of appropriate new habitats wherever possible, protecting and enhancing linear wildlife habitats, conserving ancient or semi-natural features such as woodlands, hedgerows,

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old meadows and ponds, increasing the area of acid grassland/heathland in the Greensand Ridge, and restoring two sites of derelict or poorly managed wood pasture or parkland to a favourable ecological condition by 2010

- ‘Meeting the Needs’ (Consultation Draft of the Joint Economic Development Strategy for Bedfordshire and Luton, 2005-10-06) outlines objectives and priorities including growing and diversifying the local economy – prioritising resources and supporting clusters such as aviation, high-tech manufacturing, financial services, construction and leisure/tourism, and work to ensure that new urban employment areas are attractive to business and accessible
- The Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Plan (Bedfordshire County Council/Luton Borough Council January 2005) promotes re-use, recycling of materials as part of development proposals and waste audits for both the construction and operational phases of development
- The Mid Bedfordshire Crime and Disorder Strategy (Mid Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership 2002) sets out an objective to instil ‘Secure By Design’ principles, taking into account building design, parking, open space and transport networks
- The Forest of Marston Vale Plan (2000) seek to develop the Community Forest as an attractive area, rich in wildlife with associated provision for access, leisure and education. The improvement or derelict and underused land is a core concept in the Forest
- The Mid Bedfordshire Community Plan (Mid Bedfordshire LSP 2003) includes an action plan seeking the delivery of at least 20% affordable housing, reuse of empty properties, a new cross-district recycling centre, enhanced community facilities and public transport
- Mid Bedfordshire District Council’s contaminated land strategy (2003) recognises that contaminated land will come forward for development, and identifies a need to ensure that contamination is dealt with prior to development
- The Bedfordshire and Luton Green Infrastructure Plan aims to produce a schedule of GI investment projects for delivery in the short to medium term
- The cycling and walking strategy for Mid Bedfordshire promotes the achievement of conditions in Mid Bedfordshire where cycling and walking are seen as natural choices of modes for leisure and shorter trips, and encourages provision of the necessary facilities to promote safe, enjoyable cycle and footpath use
- Mid Bedfordshire District Council’s Housing Requirements Study (2003) identifies a significant affordability problem. Average prices have increased by 61% since 1999 whilst gross weekly pay has increased by 22%. The document identifies an annual overall need for 916 housing units of all types and tenures, or which between 260 and 284 of these units will need to be affordable, equating to between 28% and 31% of all housing need

Appendix II: Baseline Information Review

Note:

SEA topics: are biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage incl. architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape & interrelationships

Issue/Comment: where available, includes information regarding the sensitivity/importance of receiving the environment; reversibility/permanence; ability to offset/remedy; cumulative/synergistic effects

Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
ENVIRONMENT					
Air quality					
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	<p>On March 7 2005 Mid Beds District Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Order (under Section 83(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) as a result of sulphur dioxide emissions from Stewartby Brickworks.</p> <p>The AQMA includes the villages of Marston Moretaine and Houghton Conquest and surrounding countryside areas.</p> <p>Mid Beds District Council currently monitors for nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone in the area.</p> <p>A recently issued permit for the Hanson site should go some way to reducing pollution levels to acceptable limits. However, pollution levels will be monitored to ensure that the reductions occur and that appropriate action is taken should pollution levels remain high.</p>				

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Appendix II – Baseline Information Review

Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
Climate					
Energy efficiency	<i>Data Gap</i>				
SAP rating by location (% of dwellings)	<p>The average SAP (energy efficiency) rating for the private sector dwellings in Mid Beds is 61, much higher than the average SAP rate in the UK, which is 44.</p> <p>[SAP is the Governments 'Standard Assessment Procedure' for energy rating of dwellings. SAP provides a simple means of reliably estimating the energy efficiency performance of dwellings. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 to 100 the higher the number the better the rating.]</p>				4
Energy	There are no commercial wind turbines operating.	<p>Bedfordshire: There are no commercial wind turbines operating.</p> <p>6 combined heat and power installations (generating 0.7MW)</p> <p>Targets: Proportion of Regions energy met by renewable energy:</p> <p>10% by 2010 and 17% by 2020 (excl. offshore wind). 14% by 2010 and 44% by 2020 (incl. offshore wind)</p> <p>10,000 MW installed capacity by 2020 (UK). Beds requires</p>			15
Climate Change		<p>East of England: In 2000: CO2 emissions for the transport</p>		In the Eastern Region – climate will be 3-5°C warmer; winters will be wetter and milder with	16

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
		<p>sector have doubled in the last 20 years.</p> <p>29% of greenhouse gases were produced by the transport sector; 25% by domestic resources; 23% from the industrial and economy sectors; 10% or less from agriculture, public sector, waste and water sectors</p> <p>In 1995 the UK was responsible for approx. 2.2% of the worlds CO2 emissions</p> <p>TARGETS: UK – cut CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050 (The Energy White Paper).</p> <p>UK legal commitments - cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% of 1990 levels by 2008-2012.</p>		<p>a 30% increase in rainfall; sea-levels will rise, with storm surges increasing n intensity and frequency</p> <p>Agriculture will have to cope with a longer growing season and drier soils</p> <p>Water availability will be a key issue and the need to increase storage for domestic, industrial and agricultural use</p>	
Water					
Rivers	The valleys of the rivers Ivel, Flitt and Great Ouse drain the higher land. The Ivel emerges from the chalk escarpment at Baldock in Hertfordshire but most of its course is through Mid-Bedfordshire, via Stotfold, Biggleswade, Sandy and Blunham, before it joins the Great Ouse at Tempsford. The source of the Great Ouse is near Brackley in Northamptonshire and flows via Bedford, Great				5

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Information	Current Local Situation							National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets			Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	Barford and Roxton to the sea at King's Lynn. All of Mid Bedfordshire's river water drains into the Fens and to the Wash.												
Chemical river water quality % length of rivers and canals		Beds Borough	Mid Beds	South Beds	Luton Borough	Bedfords hire	Beds and Luton				Good river water quality compared to surrounding areas.	1	
	Chemical Grade												
	A	7.4	8.6	3.1	0	7.2	6.9						
	B	69.3	42.8	65.8	0	55.9	53.9						
	C	16.2	29.7	16.9	0	22.9	22.1						
	D	6.9	17.8	0	0	10.9	10.5						
	E	0	1.1	14.2	100	3.1	6.6						
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0						
	% of good or fair quality	100	98.9	85.8	0	96.9	93.4						
Length Assessed (km)	79.2	113.0	42.4	8.9	234.6	243.5							
Biological river water quality		Beds Borough	Mid Beds	South Beds	Luton Borough	Bedfords hire	Beds and Luton				Good river water quality compared to surrounding areas.	1	
	Biological Grade												
	a	50.8	26.7	21.7	0	33.9	32.7						
	b	20.8	26.9	40.1	0	27.3	26.2						
	c	28.4	35.0	38.2	93.3	33.3	35.5						
	d	0	11.4	0	6.7	5.5	5.6						
	e	0	0	0	0	0	0						
	f	0	0	0	0	0	0						

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Information	Current Local Situation				National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets			Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	% of good or fair quality	100	100	100	100	100	100			
	Length Assessed (km)	79.2	113.0	42.4	8.9	234.6	243.5			
River water phosphate levels	<i>Data Gap</i>									
River water nitrate levels	<i>Data Gap</i>									
River Quality Comparators					Bedfordshire: 95% of watercourses of good or fair quality (2002) East of England: 92% of watercourses of good or fair quality (2002) England and Wales: 94% of watercourses of good or fair quality (2002) Over 70% of Nitrates in English waters comes from agricultural land			The Anglian region has consistently recorded the highest percentage of all regions for N and K		17
Precipitation					Bedfordshire: 584 mm/yr effective rainfall is 150mm/yr East of England: 750 mm/yr England and Wales: 838mm/yr				Bedfordshire rainfall is below average East of England is a dry region	18
Sources of water for Mid Beds	Stored water resources in greensand and limestone rocks which sustain the headwaters of rivers and streams and are abstracted for both drinking water and agricultural irrigation.									3

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source								
Areas of Mid Beds under high risk of flooding	Biggleswade: 30 Sandy: 30 Shefford: 20 Langford: 20 Blunham: 20		Climate change models forecast that by 2080 winters will see a 30% increase in rainfall		19								
Flood Defences	<i>Data gap</i>												
Biodiversity/flora/fauna													
SSSI	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">% of area of SSSIs in favourable condition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Beds Borough</td> <td style="text-align: center;">74.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Mid Beds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">South Beds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">51.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Condition of SSSIs by district [data from English Nature]</i></p>	% of area of SSSIs in favourable condition		Beds Borough	74.5	Mid Beds	80.1	South Beds	51.1	<p>Bedfordshire: 7% of the County retains any significant value for wildlife (1998 habitat survey)</p> <p>SSSIs and CWS cover about 6-7% of the area of the County</p> <p>78% of Bedfordshire's SSSIs are in favourable condition.</p> <p>England and Wales: 57% of SSSIs in favourable condition</p> <p>TARGET: 30% tree cover within the Forest of Marston Vale by 2031</p>		Loss of wildlife and decline of habitats	1 & 20
% of area of SSSIs in favourable condition													
Beds Borough	74.5												
Mid Beds	80.1												
South Beds	51.1												
Community Forest	The Forest of Marston Vale is one of only twelve Community Forests throughout the UK and has made a significant impact in regenerating the local environment, whilst providing communities with access to green space.				3								
National priority chalk grassland	Mid Bedfordshire contains examples of national priority chalk grassland and wetland habitats. It is also the most heavily wooded part of Bedfordshire			High quality environment in certain areas.	3								

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and wetland habitats.	and the heathlands of the greensand ridge are amongst very few examples of this habitat in central England.																																		
Greensand Ridge	With its extensive woodlands, remnant heaths and acid grasslands, Greensand Ridge is of high biodiversity value and provides important open spaces for local residents and visitors				3																														
Details of the areas of woodland receiving WGS payments in Bedfordshire districts [data from the Forestry Commission]	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">District</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Area of woodland (ha) receiving Annual Management Grant in August 2002</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Area (ha) of new broadleaf planting in 2001/02</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Area (ha) of new conifer planting in 2001/02</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Beds Borough</td> <td>405.86</td> <td>3.72</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid Beds</td> <td>1,222.48</td> <td>12.86</td> <td>0.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Beds</td> <td>442.79</td> <td>18.6</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Luton Borough</td> <td>31.0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td>2102.13</td> <td>35.18</td> <td>0.57</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				District	Area of woodland (ha) receiving Annual Management Grant in August 2002	Area (ha) of new broadleaf planting in 2001/02	Area (ha) of new conifer planting in 2001/02	Beds Borough	405.86	3.72	0	Mid Beds	1,222.48	12.86	0.57	South Beds	442.79	18.6	0	Luton Borough	31.0	0	0	Total	2102.13	35.18	0.57			1				
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Area (ha) of publicly accessible land managed for nature conservation per 1000 people	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">District</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Population</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Area (ha) [LNR only]</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Area (ha) per 1000 people [LNR only]</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Beds Borough</td> <td>144,100</td> <td>537.70 [60.4]</td> <td>3.73 [0.42]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid Beds</td> <td>128,400</td> <td>983.74 [150]</td> <td>7.66[1.17]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Beds</td> <td>112,100</td> <td>646.74 [80.7]</td> <td>5.77 [0.72]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Luton</td> <td>182,800</td> <td>82.5 [0]</td> <td>0.45 [0]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bedfordshire</td> <td>384,400</td> <td>2167.80 [291.1]</td> <td>5.64 [0.76]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beds & Luton</td> <td>567,200</td> <td>2250.30 [291.1]</td> <td>3.97 [0.51]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				District	Population	Area (ha) [LNR only]	Area (ha) per 1000 people [LNR only]	Beds Borough	144,100	537.70 [60.4]	3.73 [0.42]	Mid Beds	128,400	983.74 [150]	7.66[1.17]	South Beds	112,100	646.74 [80.7]	5.77 [0.72]	Luton	182,800	82.5 [0]	0.45 [0]	Bedfordshire	384,400	2167.80 [291.1]	5.64 [0.76]	Beds & Luton	567,200	2250.30 [291.1]	3.97 [0.51]		The District has a very high area of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population in comparison with other nearby authorities	1
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County Wildlife Sites (CWS)	These sites usually contain protected or rare species, or habitats of local importance. They have no statutory designation, but are identified by the local planning authority and provisions for their protection are incorporated into the Local Plan				6																														

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Information	Current Local Situation			National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	(Policy NC3). Around 150 sites have been identified within Mid Beds.						
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	There are currently six in Mid Beds which have been designated by the County Council. Again they are afforded a measure of protection via Policy NC3 of the Local Plan.						6
Known Protected Species in Mid Beds and their habitats	Species	Common Habitat	Potential Development Threats				6
	Goshawk	Woodlands	Habitat destruction, fragmentation, lack of potential breeding sites.				
	Garganey	Gravel pits and lakes.	Infilling, landfill, pollution				
	Hobby	Farmland trees, woodland.	Habitat destruction, fragmentation, lack of potential breeding sites.				
	Firecrest	Pine woods.	Habitat destruction, fragmentation				
	Kingfisher	Water courses, river banks, quarry faces and sandpits.	Quarrying, infilling, pollution, bank engineering, lack of potential breeding sites				
	Crossbill	Pine woods.	Habitat destruction, fragmentation				
	Barn Owl	Loss of feeding areas, barn	Loss of feeding areas, barn conversion, loft conversion,				

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		conversion, loft conversion, disturbance .	disturbance.				
	Black Redstart	Spring migrant may breed in industrial areas	Redevelopment of industrial and derelict sites				
	Little Ringed Plover	Quarry workings, sands, gravel.	Quarrying, infilling, water level changes, nest disturbance and vegetation succession.				
	Quail	Farmland.	Change in agricultural practices, use of pesticides, removal of woodland/scrub and hedgerows				
	Woodlark	Heathland, woodland clearings.	Inappropriate management of habitat and recreation disturbance				
	Otter	Water courses, rivers and streams.	Disturbance, fragmentation of suitable habitat for resting and breeding, water pollution, bank clearance, roads.				
		Woodland and	Changes in woodland and hedgerow				

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Information	Current Local Situation			National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
		hedgerows.	management, habitat destruction and fragmentation.				
	Water vole	Rivers, Ditches, Ponds.	Loss and fragmentation of habitat, disturbance of riverside habitats, pollution and drainage work, poisoning using rodenticides.				
	Bats	Buildings, trees, tunnels and ice houses.	Barn conversion, loft conversion, timber treatments, loss of roosts and maternity sites.				
	Badger	Farmland, hedges, woods, grassland, roadsides	Disturbance, loss of foraging habitat, sett damage/destruction				
	Great Crested Newt	Still water, ponds and surrounding land, hedges, farmland and woodland.	Pond and habitat destruction, fragmentation, introduction of fish, water level changes, pollution				
	Natterjack toad.	Heathland	Habitat modification and destruction, drainage schemes, pollution				

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			and loss of breeding ponds.				
	Adder	Heathland.	Habitat destruction and fragmentation				
	Common Lizard	Grassland, Heathland	Habitat destruction and fragmentation				
	Grass Snake	Grass, woodland, usually near water.	Habitat destruction and fragmentation				
	Slow worm	Habitats with good cover.	Habitat destruction and fragmentation				
	White Clawed Crayfish	Rivers, Ditches, Ponds	Pollution, fishing, inappropriate waterway management and low water levels. Introduction of non-native crayfish species				
	Field cow	wheat Farmland.	Recreational activities, erosion				
	Spined loach	Rivers and streams, still water	Pollution, inappropriate waterway management, low water levels				
	Ground pine	Farmland.	Changes in agricultural practices, change of land use, herbicides				

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Landscape					
AONB	Much of the landscape has been shaped by agricultural activity and a small part falls within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.				3
Landscape Character	The varied landscapes of the river valleys of the Ivel, Hiz and Flit, which contain the valuable wetlands and whose rivers and streams, are important for both biodiversity and for irrigating crops. The valleys act as corridors for wildlife and people, especially in urban areas.				3
Cultural / Built Heritage					
Listed Buildings	Mid Bedfordshire contains a wide and interesting range of medieval settlements and sites and has a rich built and archaeological heritage. There are 1,385 listed buildings.				3
Ancient Monuments	Nationally important ancient monuments such as Cainhoe castle, historic buildings and exceptional designed landscapes such as Woburn Abbey and Park as well as many more modest but important protected buildings in towns and villages.				3
Conservation Areas	37 designated conservation areas				3
Historic Settlements	At the heart of the county is Mid-Bedfordshire, where the Georgian towns of Woburn and Ampthill to the west complement the historic market towns of Biggleswade and Sandy to the east. Some splendid scenery is to be found in this area too, with wide open countryside playing host to some enchanting villages, grand country houses and historic monuments.				2
Icknield Way	The ancient route, the Icknield Way, follows the the chalk escarpment, which runs from the south coast to Norfolk. The Icknield Way is said to be the oldest				5


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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	road in Britain. It first appeared in Neolithic times about 5000 years ago. In pre-historic times it was the route followed by flint traders from the mines at Brandon in Suffolk, known as Grimes Graves. Ancient flints are frequently found and flintstone has been used in the construction of many Bedfordshire churches and some secular buildings.				
Buildings	<p>Throughout the area there are a number of outstanding mansion houses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Woburn Abbey is a grand house at its grandest. Originally a Cistercian monastery it has been the seat of the Russell family since 1547. The Safari Park continues the theme of wild life begun more than a hundred years ago. ▪ The stately mansion of Wrest Park at Silsoe was built for the de Grey family in 1834, replacing a medieval house. ▪ Southill House ▪ Sir John Soane, who built Moggerhanger House in 1780, also designed the Bank of England. ▪ Moggerhanger House is currently being restored to its former glory with a view to being open to the public in 2004. ▪ Hasells Hall, near Everton, the home of the Pym family has been converted into houses and apartments. Between 1940 and 1944 it was a briefing centre for secret agents due to be parachuted into France to help the Resistance movement. ▪ Sutton Park 			Mid Beds contains a large number of historic buildings	5

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chicksands Priory ▪ Katherine of Aragon was based at Ampthill Castle during her divorce proceedings with Henry VIII. A tradition grew up that she introduced lace making to Bedfordshire. It was an important home industry in the nineteenth century, as was straw plaiting for the hat making industry at Luton. 				
Material assets					

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<p style="text-align: center;">Transport Infrastructure</p>	<p>Mid Bedfordshire is easily reached via an excellent road and rail network. It is also within easy driving distance from London Luton, Heathrow and Stansted airports.</p> <p>By Road Travelling from either the north or south of the country take the A1 or M1 motorway or the A5 from the north-west and south-east of the country. The A6 trunk road passes through the district in a north-south direction with the A507 following an east-west direction.</p> <p>By Rail The London-Edinburgh GNER railways passes through the district. You will need to disembark at either Stevenage or Peterborough and change to WAGN, which stops at Arlesey, Biggleswade and Sandy. Travelling from the south, take the Thameslink line which runs between Brighton, Gatwick, London and Bedford and calls at Harlington and Flitwick. The Midland Mainline travelling from Yorkshire and the East Midlands stops at Bedford. Here change to Thamelink for Flitwick and Harlington. Travelling from Bedford to Bletchley you can take the Silverlink line for Lidlington, Millbrook and Woburn Sands.</p> <p>By Air London Luton via A6;</p>	 <p>The map shows the United Kingdom with Mid Bedfordshire highlighted in green. Major cities like Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, London, and Manchester are marked. A network of roads and rail lines is shown across the country, with a specific line connecting London to Bedfordshire.</p>		<p>Good links to other areas</p>	<p>7</p>

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	<p>London Stansted via A120, A10 and A507; London Heathrow via M25 and M1 or A1; London Gatwick via M23, M25 and M1 or A1</p>				
Flood Defences	<i>Data Gap</i>				
Soils and minerals					
Contaminated Land	<p>The words 'Contaminated Land' now have a specific legal definition. Under Section 78A (2) of Part IIA Environmental Protection Act 1990 'Contaminated Land' is defined as</p> <p>"Land which appears to the Local Authority to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on, or under the land, that significant harm is being caused, or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or pollution of controlled waters is</p>				8

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	being, or is likely to be, caused." Whilst Mid Beds does have areas of land affected by contamination, no sites within Mid Beds have been formally determined yet as Contaminated Land in accordance with the new definition				
Landscape	The landscape of Mid Bedfordshire is one of gentle, undulating countryside. It is dominated, by the Greensand Ridge, which runs from the northeast to southwest across the area. To the south is the chalk escarpment, which runs from the south coast to Norfolk. Ancient flints are frequently found and flintstone has been used in the construction of many Bedfordshire churches and some secular buildings. Oxford clay is found at Marston and Stewartby which has given rise to a great brick making industry.				5
Quarries	Major brick clay quarries in the Marston Vale, sand quarries scattered along the greensand ridge and important areas of sand and gravel extraction particularly in the Ivel valley.				3
Soil Quality	44% of agricultural land is grade 1 or 2 A high proportion of the best and most versatile agricultural land of the county, particularly in the traditional market gardening areas in the east of the district.	Bedfordshire: 36.9% of agricultural land is Grade 1 or 2 National average: 21% of agricultural land is grade 1 or 2		Protect grades 1 and 2 and 3a agricultural land The agricultural sector is in decline.	3, 18 & 21
The Marston Vale	still a major centre for the brick making industry and with a legacy of worked out clay pits that provide important recreational and wildlife opportunities as well as nationally important void space for waste disposal.			There is a developing Community Forest and increasing pressure for industrial and housing development.	3

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Waste					
Recycling Bring Banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The district has 64 ‘Bring’ recycling banks that collect glass. ▪ Some recycling points also collect paper. 	<p>Bedford BC: The borough has 69 ‘Bring’ bank recycling centres.</p> <p>Luton: The borough has 51 ‘Bring’ recycling bank sites that collect glass.</p> <p>South Beds: The district has 37 ‘Bring’ recycling bank sites</p>			9
Recycling Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The council offers a district wide fortnightly orange bag/green lidded bin scheme collecting: paper, cans, tins, card packaging, telephone directories and plastic bottles. ▪ The orange bag/green lidded bin scheme does not collect: glass bottles, jars, clothing, shoes, corrugated cardboard, garden waste and kitchen/food waste. 	<p>Bedfordshire:</p> <p>2000-2001: 49,692</p> <p>2001-2002: 47,269</p> <p>2002-2003: 46,861</p> <p>2003-2004: 46,046</p>			9
Household Waste Recycling Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The county council HWRCs at Biggleswade and Ampthill recycle: glass bottles, cardboard, green garden waste, paper, textiles, scrap metal, white goods, car batteries, used engine oil, gas cylinders, paint, fridges and freezers. 	<p>Regional recovery targets:</p> <p>Household recovery: 40% at 2005, 50% at 2010</p> <p>Commercial recovery: 66% at 2005 and 75% at 2015</p> <p>England and Wales: The municipal waste recycling rate increased from 15.6% in 2002/03 to 19.0% in 2003/04</p>	Decreased volume of waste being recycled		9, 10 & 22

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		<p><i>Targets for materials recycling / composting in Bedfordshire and Luton.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Year</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Bedfordshire</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Luton</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2003/4 (Audit Commission)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005/6 (Audit Commission)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010 (National Waste Strategy)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015 (National Waste Strategy)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Bedfordshire	Luton	2003/4 (Audit Commission)	12%	16%	2005/6 (Audit Commission)	18%	24%	2010 (National Waste Strategy)	30%	30%	2015 (National Waste Strategy)	33%	33%			
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Municipal waste generated in Bedfordshire three districts (t):		Bedfordshire: 2000-2001: 166,964 2001-2002: 171,593 2002-2003: 173,892	Increased generation of municipal waste in Mid Beds	Need to encourage resource efficient transport, building and agricultural systems.	22															

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		2003-2004: 174,606 England and Wales: Average of 23.1kg/household/week 2003/04: total household waste arisings decreased by 1.5%				
Predicted waste management	<i>Quantities of MSW treated by landfill and alternative means (Bedfordshire) (tonnes)</i>					
	Year	Total MSW arising	Annual landfill	Cumulative landfill	Recycling / composting	End treatment plant
	2000	217,231	202,047		15,184	0
	2004	258,782	219,965	219,965	38,817	0
	2005	268,909	220,505	440,470	48,404	0
	2010	321,507	65,266	1,082,474	96,452	225,055
	2015	365,814	71,078	1,425,869	120,719	245,095
<i>Note: treatment tonnages do not equate to total MSW arising, owing to additional landfill of process residues</i>					10	

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Imports/ exports		<p><i>Reduction in import of MSW under SERP 160 strategy</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Year</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Annual Tonnage Imported</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Cumulative Tonnage Imported</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">738,665</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td style="text-align: right;">578,704</td> <td style="text-align: right;">578,704</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td style="text-align: right;">538,714</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,117,419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td style="text-align: right;">338,764</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,211,138</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td style="text-align: right;">138,813</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,305,104</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>75% of imported commercial and industrial waste originates in the London area.</p> <p><i>Projected Reduction in imported commercial and industrial waste.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Year</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Annual tonnage</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Cumulative tonnage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,600,554</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,266,572</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,266,572</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,183,076</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,449,648</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td style="text-align: right;">765,598</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7,112,595</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td style="text-align: right;">348,120</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,688,153</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data for 1998/99 indicate 222,000 tonnes of hazardous waste disposal in Bedfordshire, of which all but 21,000 tonnes were imported to the County.</p> <p><i>Projected Reduction in imported hazardous waste.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Year</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Annual tonnage</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Cumulative tonnage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Year	Annual Tonnage Imported	Cumulative Tonnage Imported	2000	738,665		2004	578,704	578,704	2005	538,714	1,117,419	2010	338,764	3,211,138	2015	138,813	4,305,104	Year	Annual tonnage	Cumulative tonnage	2000	1,600,554		2004	1,266,572	1,266,572	2005	1,183,076	2,449,648	2010	765,598	7,112,595	2015	348,120	9,688,153	Year	Annual tonnage	Cumulative tonnage					10
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2010	765,598	7,112,595																																													
2015	348,120	9,688,153																																													
Year	Annual tonnage	Cumulative tonnage																																													

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source															
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Waste Management Facilities	<i>Data Gap</i>																			
SOCIAL																				
Population																				
General	55 Town/Parish Councils and Parish Meetings.				3															
Total number of people	Population 121,024 Population Density: 2.4 p/ha Growth rate: 8.9%	Bedford Borough: Population 147,911; Population Density: 3.1p/ha; Growth rate: 9.2% South Bedfordshire: Population 112,637; Population Density: 5.3 p/ph; Growth rate: 3.0% Bedfordshire: Growth rate (since 1999): 7.2% East of England: Growth rate: 5.21% England and Wales: Growth rate: 2.35%	Main growth in 2 northern districts	There is a peaking of the population in the 30-50 ages group. Population growth puts strain on infrastructure. RSS14 – large growth proposed to the north of Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis conurbation	21															

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
Settlements	The largest settlements are Flitwick, (12,933), Biggleswade, (11,700), Sandy, (10,887) and Ampthill, (6,897).				3
Deprivation	<p>327 out of 354 local authority areas (where a score of 1 is the most deprived and 354 the least). However, this overall affluence hides the pockets of relative deprivation that do exist within Mid Bedfordshire, both in the towns and some of the rural communities.</p> <p>The Government’s Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD 2000), scores or ranks wards according to their characteristics. The ward with a rank of 1 is the most deprived and 8414 the least deprived. Using this data, Sandy All Saints is the most deprived ward in Mid Bedfordshire and has been ranked at 4365 (out of 8414). Whilst this ward is far from being considered amongst the most deprived in the country, it does contrast sharply to the rank of 8037, that Harlington receives. Most of the wards in Mid Bedfordshire are in the 6-7000 range but this wide variation between the ‘best’ and ‘worst’ scores demonstrates that levels of prosperity are not consistent across the District. In addition, these statistics do not highlight levels of deprivation at a sub-ward level</p>	South Bedfordshire: Deprivation (scores ranked 1 – 8414)240		<p>Sandy Pinnacle is the UK top 30-40% of deprived wards. Other areas of deprivation: Flitwick East, Biggleswade Stratton, Biggleswade Ivel, Arlesey, Shefford, Campton and Gravenhurst and Sandy Ivel</p> <p>Research proves that populations within areas suffering relative deprivation are more likely to suffer poor health, lower educational attainment, higher levels of unemployment and thus lower income. They are also likely to live in the poorest housing, generally have less access to services and suffer most</p>	3 & 23

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets		Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source																																							
					crime and anti-social behaviour.																																								
BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) accommodation study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall 13.7% of Bedfordshire’s population are from BME communities, however only 5.37% of Mid Beds residents are from those same communities. ▪ Within the BME community of Mid Beds, the Mixed community featured heavily (collectively 0.85%), with Asian (0.74%), Black (0.34%) and Chinese communities (0.28%) not as prevalent. The White Irish community accounted for 0.95% of the population and White ‘Other’ accounted for 2.05% of Mid Beds residents. 				Mid Bedfordshire does not have an especially diverse population in terms of ethnic origin, only 2.4% of the population are from ethnic minorities, compared with 10% for England and Wales.	4/ 3																																							
Age Profile	The age profile of the people in Mid Bedfordshire is comparable with the rest of England and Wales - 21% of the population are under 16 years of age and 18% over 60.					3																																							
Census 2001 Religion	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Religion (all people)</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Value</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Regional Rank/48 (proportion)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>91056</td><td>196</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>181</td><td>246</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>304</td><td>154</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>181</td><td>130</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>310</td><td>251</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>247</td><td>112</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>230</td><td>275</td><td>47</td></tr> <tr><td>No religion</td><td>20307</td><td>85</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Religion not stated</td><td>8208</td><td>301</td><td>44</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Religion (all people)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)	Christian	91056	196	17	Buddhist	181	246	39	Hindu	304	154	27	Jewish	181	130	30	Muslim	310	251	35	Sikh	247	112	12	Other	230	275	47	No religion	20307	85	17	Religion not stated	8208	301	44				11
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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets		Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	<p>For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown.</p> <p>In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage size and not numerical values. ONS makes no comment as to the merits of high or low ranking for any indicator. Please bear in mind that, in some circumstances, areas may have exactly the same value for a given indicator, and may therefore be 'tied' for positions in the ranking.</p>					
Census 2001 Marital Status	Marital status (all people aged 16 and over)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)	The District has the second highest proportion of widowed people of all local authorities in the region	11
	Single People (never married)	23709	253	31		
	Married or re-married people	55779	43	11		
	Separated or divorced	9366	267	31		
	Widowed	6362	345	46		
	<p>For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown.</p> <p>In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage size and not numerical values. ONS makes no comment as to the merits of high or low ranking for any indicator. Please bear in mind that, in some circumstances, areas may have exactly the same value for a given indicator, and may therefore be 'tied' for positions in the ranking.</p>					
Human health						
Health	Peoples health (2002): Good: 74.3% Fairly Good: 20.0% Not Good: 5.7%	Bedfordshire: Peoples health (2002): Good: 72.8% Fairly Good: 20.7%			Mid Beds has a relatively high proportion of healthy people	21 & 24

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Information	Current Local Situation		National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets		Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
			Not Good: 6.6% East of England: Peoples health (2002): Good: 70.6% Fairly Good: 22.0% Not Good: 7.4% England and Wales: Peoples health (2002): Good: 68.9% Fairly Good: 22.1% Not Good: 9.0%			Primary care facilities are very over subscribed Some residents have difficulty accessing facilities, information, and affordable healthy food.	
Census 2001 Health	(all people)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)			11
	Limiting Long-term illness	15647	362	47			
	General health 'not good'	7138	355	45			
	People providing unpaid care	11143	298	37			
	Providing unpaid care 50 or more hours a week	1657	337	43			
	For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown. In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage size and not numerical values. ONS makes no comment as to the merits of high or low ranking for any indicator. Please bear in mind that, in some circumstances, areas may have exactly the same value for a given indicator, and may therefore be 'tied' for positions in the ranking.						
Life Expectancy	Life expectancy:		England and Wales: Life			High life expectancy	

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source												
	77 years (males), 82 years (females)	expectancy: 75 years (males), 79.9 years (females)															
SMR	<i>Data Gap</i>																
Housing and Services																	
Access to Services- retail	21% of settlements have no retail facilities																
Access	Local research carried out in 2001 (to identify priority issues that affect the quality of life and health of local residents) found that within our rural communities, those without transport find it especially difficult to access some leisure services and activities.				3												
House prices	<p>Average house prices have increased by 61% since 1999, gross weekly pay has</p> <p>Average house price: £193,434</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Average House Price (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mid Beds</td> <td>193,434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Bedfordshire</td> <td>166,333</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bedford Borough</td> <td>165,717</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East of England</td> <td>162,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>England and Wales</td> <td>182,651</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>TARGETS: affordable housing on new qualifying sites throughout the district'</p> <p>At least 44% of affordable homes should be social rented</p>		Average House Price (£)	Mid Beds	193,434	South Bedfordshire	166,333	Bedford Borough	165,717	East of England	162,718	England and Wales	182,651			<p>Average house prices are very high and beyond the means of the gross annual wage.</p> <p>Even if 60% of brownfield sites are developed, more Greenfield land will be needed</p>	3, 4 & 25
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	<p>At least 60% of all new development in the region in or using previously used land or buildings</p> <p>Achieve a net dwelling density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare</p> <p>Mid Bedfordshire faces substantial development pressure. Presently the Structure Plan requires the provision of 18,200 new homes between the period of 1991 and 2011</p> <p>Mid Beds and its partners will secure at least 20% of all new homes built on qualifying sites as affordable homes</p> <p>One of the most significant new developments currently being planned is the Wixams, which will involve the regeneration of brownfield land on the Elstow Storage Depot site, located on the Mid Beds and Bedford Borough boundaries. The new settlement will provide around 4,500 new dwellings, half of which will be within Mid Bedfordshire.</p>																												
	<p>The population of Mid Bedfordshire continues to grow and now comprises almost 52,000 households. Mid Bedfordshire is positioned directly between several powerful housing markets. With strong north-south transport links and two mainline railway services, the district lies on the fringe of the London housing market. There is also easy access to Cambridge and Milton Keynes, both areas of high housing demand and growth.</p>				3																								
Housing types	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Percentage:</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Mid Beds</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Bedford Borough</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South Bedfordshire</th> <th style="width: 15%;">England and Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33.4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27.7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi detached</td> <td style="text-align: center;">34.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terraced</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flat</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11.7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Percentage:	Mid Beds	Bedford Borough	South Bedfordshire	England and Wales	Detached	33.4	27.7	24.1	22.8	Semi detached	34.1	32.6	36.1	31.6	Terraced	24.1	22.6	26.6	26.6	Flat	7.8	16.1	11.7	19.2		21
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Housing Density	<p>Dwelling Density (dwellings per ha):</p> <p>Less than 30: 57%</p> <p>30-50 dph: 43%</p>	<p>Bedfordshire: Dwelling Density (dwellings per ha):</p> <p>Less than 30: 47%</p> <p>30-50 dph:</p>		21	21																								

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	More than 50 dph: 0%	38% More than 50 dph: 15%																																													
Housing Commitments	Housing Commitments (03): PDL: 42% Greenfield: 58%	Bedfordshire: Housing Commitments (03): PDL: 44% Greenfield: 56%			26																																										
Homelessness and Housing Condition	<p>Table indicating the rising demands relating to homelessness and the usage of Bed & Breakfast.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No of homeless approaches</th> <th>No. of homeless acceptances</th> <th>No. of house holds placed in B&Bs</th> <th>No of nights B&B acquired</th> <th>Average length of stay in B&B</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000-01</td> <td>175</td> <td>65</td> <td>7</td> <td>22</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001-02</td> <td>239</td> <td>108</td> <td>17</td> <td>479</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002-03</td> <td>347</td> <td>135</td> <td>36</td> <td>821</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr – Dec 03</td> <td>228</td> <td>134</td> <td>42</td> <td>730</td> <td>17.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proj. figs to year end</td> <td>430</td> <td>170</td> <td>60</td> <td>1099</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	No of homeless approaches	No. of homeless acceptances	No. of house holds placed in B&Bs	No of nights B&B acquired	Average length of stay in B&B	2000-01	175	65	7	22	3	2001-02	239	108	17	479	28	2002-03	347	135	36	821	23							Apr – Dec 03	228	134	42	730	17.5	Proj. figs to year end	430	170	60	1099	19	<p>Mid Beds and its partners will reduce the proportion of homeless families placed in bed & breakfast, even in an emergency, by 3% year on year</p> <p>Mid Beds and its partners will increase the proportion of cases where homelessness is prevented through timely intervention from 17% of all applications by 5% year on year.</p>	<p>Increasing number of people living in unsuitable conditions or are homeless There has been a 45% increase in homeless applications (Aragon Housing Association 2003)</p>	<p>The homelessness situation is deteriorating and consequently needs to be addressed</p>	4
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Housing deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The rate of unfitness across all tenures within the district is 3.4% (1,731 homes). ▪ The percentage of unfit dwellings within the 				4																																										

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	<p>private rented sector is 7%; this is much lower than the national figure of 19.3%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cost of immediate repairs to make the unfit dwellings fit for habitation in Mid Beds is £7.3 million. ▪ 3.8% (1,935) of the dwellings were found to be in substantial disrepair. ▪ 26% of unfit housing is occupied by households aged over 60 and on low incomes. ▪ 68% of households over 60 need immediate repair works carrying out to their homes. ▪ 11% of households contain at least one disabled person. 					
Census 2001 Housing	(all households)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)		11
	Number of households with residents	48600	179	24		
	Number of people per hectare	2.4	252	31		
	Average household size	2.45	41	5		
	Vacant household spaces	1366	225	21		
	Owner-occupied	37072	100	15		
	Without central heating	2023	296	30		
	Without own bath/shower & toilet	100	298	37		
	Overcrowding indicator	1667	302	40		
<p>The overcrowded indicator provides a measure of under-occupancy and overcrowding. For example, a value of -1 implies there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household. The occupancy rating assumes that every household, including one person households, requires a minimum of two common rooms (excluding</p>						

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	bathrooms).							
Census 2001 Housing Composition	Composition (all households)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)		Highest proportion of married couple households in the region.	11	
	One person households	12086	345	42				
	Married Couple households	22573	11	1				
	Cohabiting households	4609	51	11				
	Lone Parent households:							
	With dependent children	2116	316	38				
	With non-dependent children only	1123	357	43				
	All other households	6093	360	47				
<p>For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown.</p> <p>In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage size and not numerical values. ONS makes no comment as to the merits of high or low ranking for any indicator. Please bear in mind that, in some circumstances, areas may have exactly the same value for a given indicator, and may therefore be 'tied' for positions in the ranking.</p>								
Crime, disorder, community safety								
Levels of Crime per 1000 population %		Bedfordshire	Mid Beds	England and Wales			27 & 28	
	Violence against the person	10.4	4.6	11.4				
	Sexual offences	0.8	0.4	0.7				
	Robbery	0.2	0.2	1.8				
	Burglary from a dwelling	3.2	3.2	7.6				
	Theft of a motor vehicle	4.5	4.5	6.4				
Theft from a motor vehicle	10.5	10.5	11.4					
ECONOMIC								

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Information	Current Local Situation		National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets		Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
Skills and employment							
Census 2001 Employment Status	Status (all people aged 16-74)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)		Of the 376 local authority areas in England and Wales, Mid Beds has the twelfth highest employment rate	11
	Employed	61986	12	3			
	Unemployed	1656	334	43			
	Long-term unemployed	376	336	44			
	Student (economically active)	1907	202	22			
	Retired	10379	317	42			
	Student (economically inactive)	2947	169	13			
	Looking after home/family	5461	213	40			
	Permanently sick or disabled	2166	351	45			
	Other inactive	1518	373	48			
<p>For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown.</p> <p>In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage size and not numerical values. ONS makes no comment as to the merits of high or low ranking for any indicator. Please bear in mind that, in some circumstances, areas may have exactly the same value for a given indicator, and may therefore be 'tied' for positions in the ranking.</p>							
Census 2001 Travel to Work (also see transport)	Travel to work (all people aged 16-74 in employment)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/48 (proportion)		Very high proportion of population travel to work by car	11
	Travel to work by car	45730	55	3			
	Travel to work by public transport	4615	212	34			
Census 2001 Qualifications	Qualifications (all people aged 16-74)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376	Regional Rank/48		High proportion of highly educated people	11

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Information	Current Local Situation				National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets			Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
					(proportion)	(proportion)				
	Qualifications at degree level or higher	18353			124	14				
	No qualifications	20294			307	40				
Employment Structure	Employment Type	Bedfordshire	Mid Beds	Bedford Borough	South Bedfordshire	East of England	England and Wales	The traditional heart of the area lay in agriculture, particularly the arable and market gardening sectors, and indeed today 1100 people are still directly employed in this area. However, the area has diversified significantly and today much employment comes from manufacturing, distribution and the service sector. In recent years, the district has become a recognized centre for high technology, research and development and IT.	Mid Bedfordshire has the highest level of professional and other senior employees in Bedfordshire A higher than average proportion of people in MB are employed in manufacturing, construction and primary industries (esp agriculture) There is a need to balance the employment market There is a need to increase local work opportunities in line with growth pressures	12 & 21
	High managerial / professional	10.3	11.6	9.9	9.3	9.1	8.5			
	Lower managerial / professional	21.6	23.1	20.4	21.6	19.9	18.6			
	Intermediate	10.6	10.6	10.2	11.0	10.1	9.4			
	Small employers / own business	7.6	8.8	6.6	7.5	7.9	7.0			
	Lower supervisory / technical	7.6	7.4	7.1	8.3	7.3	7.1			
	Semi – routine	11.1	10.2	11.4	11.6	11.8	11.7			
	Routine	8.3	10.2	8.3	9.0	8.6	9.1			
	Other	23.6	20.6	26.0	21.7	25.4	28.7			
Unemployment	(January 2005) Mid Beds 1.1%				UK average 2.4%				Low unemployment rate	12
Business										

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Retail Issues	Largest declines in traditional small independent traders – hardware (-31%), bookshops (-33%), cobblers (-33%) and general retailers		Overall uplift in retail activity of 5.5% Long term trend in car users travelling to larger town centres for shopping	There is a need to avoid loss of individual identity in retail centres which can result from the loss of independent retailers	
VAT registered companies	4750				12
Tourism					
Employment supported by Tourism	<i>Data Gap</i>				
Attractions	The district is noted for its unique and unusual attractions which range from vintage aircraft and transport museums, to wildlife centres, from ornamental gardens to country mansions				13
Second Homes	housing composition- Mid Beds: 0.2%	Milton Keynes: 0.2 England: 0.6		Mid Beds has relatively low second home ownership	14
Transport					
Public Transport	In an area such as Mid Bedfordshire, transport is a key issue for many people. Car dependency in Mid Bedfordshire is high and is often the only option, particularly for people in the rural communities. Those who do not have access to a car rely heavily on public transport or community transport schemes and some people are cut off from work, learning, health care and other key services because of poor public transport.			The key challenges for Mid Bedfordshire are to improve public transport provision for those who do not have a car; encourage others to use public transport and viable alternative modes of transport; and	3

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
				to consider proposals for any new transport infrastructure, ensuring that the environmental impact of any such development is properly taken into account.	
Households with car 2001/2002	<p>No car/van: 13.1%</p> <p>One car/van: 39.4%</p> <p>Two or more cars/vans: 47.4%</p> <p>Bus transport links in many villages are extremely infrequent</p>	<p>Bedfordshire: No car/van: 17.6%</p> <p>One car/van: 41.6%</p> <p>Two or more cars/vans: 40.7%</p> <p>East of England: No car/van: 19%</p> <p>One car/van: 46%</p> <p>Two or more cars/vans: 35%</p> <p>England and Wales: No car/van: 26.8%</p> <p>One car/van: 43.8%</p> <p>Two or more cars/vans: 29.4%</p>		With almost half of all households in Mid Beds owning two or more cars, the District is characterised by very high car ownership – higher than the average for the County, Region and Country	21
Travel to Work	<p>Work at home: 10.3%</p> <p>Train: 5.5%</p>	<p>Bedfordshire: Work at home: 9.6%</p>		With 70.1% of travel to work by car, there is	21

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Information	Current Local Situation	National, Regional or County Comparators/Targets	Trends	Issue/ Comment	Source
	Bus: 1.7% Car: 71.7% Motorcycle: 0.9% Bicycle: 2.5% Foot: 6.9% Other:	Train: 4.5% Bus: 3.2% Car: 70.5% Motorcycle: 1.0% Bicycle: 3.1% Foot: 8.5% Other: 0.8% 2/3 of rail travel from the East Region ends in London		considerable potential to promote modal shift away from the private car for commuters	

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