



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY REPORT 2014-15

Indicator S1: Barriers to Planning services for the people protected by the Equality Act 2010

Progress:

The council continues to implement a programme of Equality Analysis of Planning Services. Each analysis is undertaken in accordance with the council's protocol for Equality Analysis and is monitored by a Directorate Equality Group. An Equality Analysis of each activity helps us provide and deliver excellent services to Bedford Borough residents and staff by making sure that these reflect the diverse needs of the community and staff profile. It also makes sure we consider our equality duty, under the Equality Act 2010, in the development and implementation of all our work.

The specific documents and services which have been assessed in the year ended 31st March 2015 are:

- Parking Standards for Sustainable Communities: Design and Good Practice Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Empty Home Programme
- Planning Enforcement
- Building Control Service
- Land North of Bromham Road Development Brief (Addendum)

(Source: Bedford Borough Council)

Indicator S2: Statement of Community Involvement

A revised Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in July 2013, reflecting the changes in legislation and national planning guidance.

Aim	Target	Indicator	Progress
Community engagement	100% of adopted policy	a) % of adopted policy	No consultations were conducted on the preparation of the Local Plan 2032 during the monitoring period. Work continued on the plan and a

Aim	Target	Indicator	Progress
practices in accordance with the SCI	documents produced in accordance with the SCI.	documents produced in accordance with SCI	further consultation was held October-December 2015 (outside the monitoring period). The Parking Standards SPD was adopted on 10 September 2014. Public consultation on the document was held between Friday 9 May and Monday 16 June 2014. Prior information consultation had taken place from February to May 2013. The consultation was conducted in accordance with the SCI and government regulations.
Pre-application consultation	Increase pre-application consultation by applicants of 'major' schemes	d) % of major schemes undertaking pre-application consultation	There have been a total 634 preapp enquiries, a decrease of 85 on last year. This is the first year of reporting the number of pre-app enquiries following the introduction of fees for the service. This would explain the drop in numbers received. Due to differences in how pre-app enquiries are now handled and a restructure of the Development Management team it is no longer possible to determine how many major schemes have undertaken pre-application advice.

Indicator S3: Community Safety Design Guide

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
To assist in planning out crime within existing and new developments	Lower recorded crime levels	a) Borough crime levels	Total recorded crime for Bedfordshire police force: 12/13 – 35,678 13/14 – 36,262 14/15 – 39,105 Data are available by police force rather than local authority areas

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
			<p>Source: www.ons.gov.uk</p> <p>Crimes per 1000 population for Bedfordshire Police Force: 12/13 – 56.61 13/14 - 58 14/15 – 61.7</p> <p>Source: www.police.uk, www.ons.gov.uk</p>
To help ensure that all parties work effectively in partnership at both the strategic and local level	Use of SPD in planning decisions	b) Number of planning permissions in which SPD conditions are used	30 decisions stated policy BE45 in the decision, a decrease of 5 on last year. 11 of those decisions mentioned the design guide in the officer report or decision notice.
Every opportunity is taken to create sustainable new communities	Decrease fear of crime in Borough	c) Fear of crime levels	<p>Citizens Panel Survey Summer/Autumn 2014</p> <p>When asked 'how safe do you feel when visiting the town centre, 89% said they felt 'very safe' or 'safe' during the day, consistent with last year. This dropped to 37% when asked about the evening'. During the day only 5% answered that they felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe'. This increased to 33% in the evening.</p> <p>When asked 'how safe do you feel in your local area', 91% of respondents to the survey said they felt safe or very safe during the day, against 3% feeling unsafe or very unsafe. 63% said they felt safe or very safe 'after dark', with 21% saying they felt unsafe or very unsafe.</p>

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
			In continues to be the case that during the day people show that they largely feel safe around town and in their local area. This figure drops noticeably after dark however, particularly in the town centre. More people report feeling unsafe after dark both in the town centre and in their local area, than during the day, when only small percentages say they felt unsafe.

