



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY REPORT 2016-17

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

Progress:

Due to a change in council policy, equality analysis is now monitored differently. Therefore, to help meet our statutory requirements, we assess the impact of our activities (projects, policies, strategies, functions and services) on equality. This includes existing activities, new activities or those that are being changed. We do this by carrying out an equality analysis (EA), previously called equality impact assessments.

Equality Analyses are published on the council's website at http://www.bedford.gov.uk/community_and_living/equality_and_diversity/equality_analysis.aspx

(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 practices in accordance with the SCI	100% of adopted policy documents produced in accordance with the SCI.	a) % of adopted policy documents produced in accordance with SCI	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was approved for adoption by the council's Executive in July 2013. The Plan was prepared in accordance with the SCI at each stage of its development. An Issues and Options consultation and a 'call for sites' were conducted on the Local Plan 2035 in February 2014 and December 2015. In addition to the statutory requirements of consulting statutory consultees, notifying those on our consultation database and advertising the consultation on our website and in local press, the Planning Policy team held drop in sessions around the borough to allow residents to talk with Planning Officers. Leaflets and posters were also displayed in 'community hub' locations such as shops, post offices and pubs. In January 2016 a further Issues and Options consultation was completed, details of all previous consultations can be found via the following link: http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_town_and_country/planning_policy_its_purpose/local_plan_2035/closed_consultations.aspx</p>
Pre-application consultation	Increase pre-application consultation by applicants of 'major' schemes	d) % of major schemes undertaking pre-application consultation	<p>There have been a total of 731 preapp enquiries, a decrease of 37 on last year – major applications are no longer monitored. This follows a trend of steady decreases in the number of pre-app enquiries received since charges were introduced on 01st April 2014.</p>

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	<p>12/13 – 35,678 13/14 – 36,262 14/15 – 39,105 15/16 – 40,704 16/17 – 42,765</p> <p>Data are available by police force rather than local authority areas</p> <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 15/16 – 63.2 16/17 – 70.08</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	34 decisions stated policy BE45 in the decision, an increase of 7 on last year. 11 of those decisions mentioned the design guide in the officer report or decision notice.

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
Every opportunity is taken to create sustainable new communities	Decrease fear of crime in Borough	c) Fear of crime levels	<p>Citizens Panel Survey – Updated Summer/Autumn 2016</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. This dropped to 39% when asked about 'after dark' compared to 37% in the previous monitoring period. During the day 5% answered that they felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe'. This increased to 29% in the evening, compared with 33% in the previous monitoring period.</p> <p>When asked 'how safe do you feel in your local area', 93% of respondents to the survey said they felt safe during the day, against 3% feeling unsafe. 65% said they felt safe 'after dark', with 16% saying they felt unsafe or very unsafe.</p> <p>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.</p>

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