



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY REPORT 2015-16

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 2016 are:

- Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Empty Homes Programme
- Planning Enforcement
- Building Control Service
- Learning Disability Accommodation Strategy
- Sports Pitch Fee Charges

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	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.
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 of 768 preapp enquiries, an increase of 134 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.

Indicator S3: Community Safety Design Guide

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
To assist in	Lower	a) Borough	Total recorded crime for Bedfordshire police force:

SPD objectives	Associated targets	Indicators	Progress
planning out crime within existing and new developments	recorded crime levels	crime levels	<p>12/13 – 35,678 13/14 – 36,262 14/15 – 39,105 15/16 – 40,704</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: 10/11 – 68.1 11/12 – 60.5 12/13 – 56.61 13/14 - 58 14/15 – 61.7 15/16 – 63.2</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	27 decisions stated policy BE45 in the decision, a decrease of 3 on last year. 8 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 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, identical with last year. This dropped to 39% when asked about 'after dark' against 37% last year. During the day 5% answered that they felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe'. This increased to 29% in the evening, compared with 33% last year. The figures are comparable to the figures reported last 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>

