

LAND USE

Indicator LU1: Land Used for Urban Activities

This map shows the land use change to urban activities in the county between April 1999 and the end of March 2000. The urban areas shown are towns with a population of over 7000. Land use change is only recorded when development is started, in this case prior to 1st April 2000.

INSERT LAND MAP

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The 12 months period since April 1999 has seen a total of 59.13 hectares change to urban activities in Hertfordshire. This figure is slightly larger than any figure recorded in the last five years, giving a total of 183 hectares 1995 to 2000.

This year's change, as last year, comes mainly from the change of agricultural land to housing on the edges of North East Stevenage (14 ha.), West Cheshunt (11 ha.) and Bishops Stortford St Michaels Mead (4 ha.), but this year has also seen 8.4 hectares at Royston. The siting of sports facilities on previously agricultural uses (as at Bishops Stortford in 1998-99) has continued this year. A complex of pitches and other sports facilities have been created at Cheapside Farm St Albans (16.6 ha.) and a sports centre for school use at Merryhill Farm Bushey (1.5 ha.).

An interesting development on agricultural land adjacent to Hemel Hempstead, is the Bunkers Lane Open Space Project. This project is to provide a large area of country parkland, 48 hectares on the urban fringe, but as it is not an urban activities area it has not been included in this years totals.

Indicator LU2: Number of Households

The 1991 Census showed that there were 380,900 households in Hertfordshire. By 1997 this had increased by 8.3% to 412,400 households according to the Hertfordshire Mid Term Population Survey. Over the same period Hertfordshire's population had grown by 2.5% from 988,700 in 1991 to 1,024,800 in 1997, resulting in the continuing reduction in average household size.

The latest Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) trend based household projections suggest that between 1996 and 2021 there will be a growth of 89,000 in the number of households in Hertfordshire. 70% of these additional households are expected to be single person households. Subsequent population estimates suggest that these projections may be low, at least in the short term.

Indicator LU3: Residential Development on Previously Developed Land

New development in existing urban areas contributes to the revitalisation of communities and can reduce the amount of travelling to work or shops. Re-using previously developed land protects the countryside, wildlife and habitats, and contributes to urban regeneration.

- 78% of commitments for new homes in Hertfordshire 1991-2000 were on previously developed land.
- 74% of the completions in 1999/00 were on previously developed land.

- The target set by the Government is 60%

Structure Plan

The current Hertfordshire Structure Plan was adopted in April 1998 and covers the period 1991 - 2011. The County Council has commenced technical work on reviewing the Plan for the period to 2016, and the first public consultation document is likely to be published in 2001.

**For Further Information on Land Use Contact: Rob Wright, Hertfordshire
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