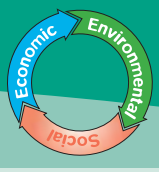
Land Use



There are conflicting pressures on land use in Hertfordshire, principally in meeting the accommodation and transport needs of the population whilst preserving natural habitats. The county's main towns are those with a population of over 7,000. They are shown on the map and currently account for 13% of land use.

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INDICATOR LU1 – Land Used for Urban Activities

The map shows the land use change to urban activities in Hertfordshire between April 2001 and the end of March 2002. Land use change is recorded when development is started, in this case prior to 1st April 2002. The period has seen a total of only 8 hectares (ha) change to urban activities. This is a lower amount than the previous three years. This year's changes continue to involve the development of agricultural land to provide housing at Royston (2.16 ha) and North East Stevenage (0.3 ha).

A further 2.9 ha of community and education facilities are taking place to support the North East Stevenage development and 2.2 ha of land for education is being developed at Bishop's Stortford. The remaining amounts are accounted for by leisure facilities in St Albans.

Elsewhere, the Ovaltine egg farm at Kings Langley is a unique conversion providing offices and a visitor centre, but neighbours a town of less than 7,000 population so is not included in these totals.

INDICATOR LU2 – Number of Households

The Government's (ODPM) latest trend-based household projections suggest that between 1996 and 2021 there will be growth of about 89,000 in the number of households in Hertfordshire, of which 70% are expected to be single person households.

Projections suggest that in 2001 there would have been about 430,000 households in Hertfordshire. Preliminary population estimates from the 2001 Census accord reasonably with this figure. It is estimated that the number of households has been increasing by approximately 1% per annum, and this trend is projected to continue.

INDICATOR LU3 – Residential Development on Previously Developed Land

The Government is committed to maximising the reuse of previously developed land (PDL) in order to promote urban regeneration and to minimise the amount of land being taken for development. The national target requires that by 2008, 60% of additional housing should be provided on PDL and through the conversion of existing buildings.

Between April 2001 and the end of March 2002, 72% of new homes were built on PDL. At the end of the period 49% of outstanding commitments were to be built on PDL.

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