

# LUTON 2040

Moving from vision to reality



## LUTON 2040 Progress Report



[Luton2040.co.uk](http://Luton2040.co.uk)

# LUTON 2040 PLEDGE

To achieve our shared vision for Luton, we need everyone in our community, including residents and organisations in the public, private, and voluntary sectors to play their part.

The Luton 2040 Pledge plays a key role in this, allowing organisations from across the town and beyond, to demonstrate their commitment and involvement.

Thank you to all the organisations who have already completed their pledge:



Make your Luton 2040 pledge at [Luton2040.co.uk](https://Luton2040.co.uk)



# THIS IS LUTON

The Luton 2040 Progress Report shows our progress towards the Luton 2040 vision of a healthy, fair and sustainable town where everyone can thrive and no one has to live in poverty. The report tracks progress against our overarching aim of creating a town free of poverty.

The report concludes with reflections from the town's leaders and residents, and recommendations from the joint governing board of Luton 2040.

Welcome to Luton – globally connected, in the heart of the Golden Triangle of London, Oxford and Cambridge and within easy reach of many major cities across the UK, Europe and beyond. There's good reason for Luton

to be confident. Luton is expecting to see the fastest growth of any economic centre in the UK after London. Our entrepreneurial, can-do spirit is in the fabric of the town: if you can dream it, you must do it.

**A super diverse town** with a vibrant mix of culture, skills and languages

**The third youngest population in the country** with 22 per cent of residents below the age of 15

**A cohesive town** where people get on well with their neighbours



**An excellent strategic location**, situated between London, Oxford and Cambridge

**Outstanding connectivity by road, rail and air**- less than 30 minutes from London by rail, close to the M1 and 10 miles from the M25

**A strong local economy**, with productivity above the national average prior to the pandemic



**A town of 225,000 people**, with a continuously increasing population



A town experiencing **strong wage growth**



**Civic agreement** between University of Bedfordshire and Luton Council



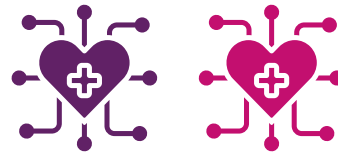
**Home to the fifth largest airport in the UK**- supporting 27,000 jobs, and adding around £1.1 billion to the regional economy



**A growing arts, culture and heritage offer** with events that celebrate our diverse range of cultures and support greater wellbeing



**Effective and efficient health partnerships locally and regionally**, led by the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System



**Home to Luton and Dunstable University Hospital** – providing good and outstanding core services to around 400,000 people in the region



**90% of schools in Luton** rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted



**A dedicated voluntary and community sector** that delivers a wide range of crucial services



**Outstanding access to greenspace** – including six green flag parks and close proximity to the Chilterns



Home to **Premier league Luton Town Football Club**



**A strong higher and further education offer** through the University of Bedfordshire, Barnfield College and Luton Sixth Form College





# LUTON 2040







# FOREWARD

**Where were you on 27 May 2023? Wardown Park? Behind the sofa? Or part of the orange sea at Wembley Stadium as Luton completed the greatest fairytale in football, securing their place in the Premier League? We'll never forget that day, and the celebrations that followed, nor the buzz ever since as top-flight football returned to Luton - something our whole town can be proud of.**

The football club's story reminds us how much can change in a short period of time. Less than a decade ago, Luton looked like a club with no future, languishing in the non-league pyramid, playing Alfreton rather than Arsenal. And yet look at them now, welcoming Mo Salah and Erling Haaland to Kenilworth Road. Just because it's a long way off, it doesn't mean you can't make it. Or, as anyone walking into Luton from the train station will tell you: if you can dream it, you must do it.

Maybe the reason Luton's Town's promotion resonated so strongly within our community is that it echoes the journey of our town as a whole. Reading this report reminds us of two things:

Our vision of creating a town where no one has to live in poverty is wildly ambitious - but all the best visions are. The report paints a helpful picture of our starting point when it comes to poverty and health inequalities

and it is these headline measures that we will use as our baselines when it comes to measuring our town's success towards 2040.

We're already beginning to see the first victories that will lead us where we want to go, particularly in our education and learning across the town, such as the huge drop in working-age adults without qualifications, the high percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding schools and the town's below-average figures of children not in education, employment or training.

The story of Luton Town reminds us that there's no such thing as overnight success, it's a series of hard-fought, small victories, matched with long-term commitment that gets you where you want to be. Luton is on the same path towards our 2040 vision.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Luton is on a journey towards 2040. Over recent years there has been much that we can celebrate, but there remain many areas of work. If you don't have time to read this whole report, this page will give you an overview of some key measures.

## Poverty in Luton

**8.9%** of Luton households **live in destitution** and a further **11.8%** of households are **struggling to pay for some basic essentials**.

Child poverty in the town has dropped from **45%** to **39%**.

## Residents' survey and public spending

**59%** of respondents to a recent survey said they were satisfied with Luton as a place to live, compared to **73%** last year.

Luton has the **second lowest public spending figure**, on NHS, local government, schools, police and public health compared to the relative need within the town, in England.



## What is going well?

**Almost two-thirds of residents (64%)** consider themselves happy, compared to **53% last year**.

Over the last decade, Luton has seen a **significant drop in the percentage of the working age population without qualifications, from 18% in 2011, to 9.8% in 2021**.

**89.5%** of pupils in Luton are attending **'good' or 'outstanding' schools**.

**Just 3.7% of 16-17 year olds in Luton are reported as not in education, employment or training,** or unknown, which compares very favourably to both regional (**4.2%**) and national (**5.2%**) averages.

The latest reporting period saw **carbon emissions per capita in Luton at just 65% of the national average and dropping by 3% annually**.

## AREAS WHERE WORK IS NEEDED

Headline wellbeing measures such as life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and mortality remain significantly worse in Luton than national and regional averages.

Just 59% of the town's population walk or cycle at least once a week, compared to the national average of 71%.

Luton has very high levels of homelessness and there are particular challenges noted for the number of households in temporary accommodation. The rate of households in temporary accommodation in Luton is significantly higher than national and regional figures.

The town's employment rate is 69.4% compared with the national figure of 75.5%.

Just 58% of pupils' reading, writing and maths are at or above the expected levels at Key Stage Two.

23% of primary children taking part in a public health survey didn't have anything to eat before they started lessons on the day they were asked.



## Recommendations

- 1. Understand what we can do as a system to lift people out of destitution quickly and put this into practice as soon as possible.**
- 2. Support more people to understand how they can help to improve the health and wellbeing of people across our community.**
- 3. Encourage organisations to make employment opportunities visible and accessible to Luton residents.**
- 4. Find better ways to ensure that the voice of residents, including young people, is heard clearly and regularly.**
- 5. Ensuring a focus on educational attainment and progress, as well as good and outstanding schools.**
- 6. Ensure all those working directly with people know what support is available for those impacted by poverty and simplify how that support can be accessed.**
- 7. System-wide:**
  - organisations represented by the joint 2040 board all ensure they sign up to and create a Luton 2040 pledge.
  - regular check-ins with organisations who have taken pledges
  - review how we work in partnership to oversee and direct Luton 2040
  - further work with residents towards 2040 vision.

# LUTON 2040 VISION

**What do we want to see?** Our collective town-wide vision for Luton in 2040 is a bold and ambitious one - a healthy, fair, and sustainable town where everyone can thrive, and no one has to live in poverty. This vision was developed with leaders, organisations, residents and partners across Luton, based on their aspirations for the future of the town and the 225,300 people who live here.

The vision is built around five priorities, each of which contributes to achieving our overall vision for the town:

Supporting a strong and empowered community, built on **fairness**, local pride and a powerful voice for all our residents.



Building an inclusive **economy** that delivers investment to support the growth of businesses, jobs and incomes.



Improving population wellbeing and tackling **health** inequalities to enable everyone to have a good quality of life and reach their full potential.



Becoming a **child friendly** town, where our children grow up happy, healthy and secure, with a voice that matters and the opportunities they need to thrive.



Tackling the climate emergency and becoming a **net zero** town with sustainable growth and a healthier environment.



We know that poverty and inequality cuts across outcomes for our residents in education, health and employment, which is why creating a town free of poverty is at the heart of our vision. We also know that poverty is a complex problem with no simple solution. So while tackling poverty is at the heart of our ambition for Luton, we know that getting there will involve creating a town built on fairness. Our vision also highlights the importance of inclusive economic growth, environmental sustainability, becoming a child friendly town, and improving wellbeing.

Since launching this vision in 2020, we have worked together to deliver a strong post-Covid-19 recovery in terms of wellbeing and our economy, and begun to transform the town with a series of major projects and initiatives. Other achievements include a town-wide programme of events celebrating the diversity of Luton's culture, one of which was the town's first Pride festival, and Luton Town Football Club's remarkable rise to the Premier League in 2023.

We are on track to see many more exciting developments over the next five years that will have a positive impact on our town and the lives of residents. This will include:

- the completion of major developments such as Power Court Football Stadium and The Stage (a mixed-use development including houses, and community and performances spaces)
- the delivery of more than 2,000 new homes for residents
- partnership with UNICEF helping us to deliver a child-friendly Luton
- the opening of new family hubs, development of community hubs and a new children with disabilities resource centre
- the introduction of more infrastructure to help us get to net zero

In the longer term, the journey we take in pursuit of 2040 could take many different paths as we meet opportunities and challenges on the way. We therefore know that success requires the resources and skills of everyone in our town as we journey together towards 2040.





## Why Luton 2040 is needed

**Prior to the launch of the Luton 2040 vision,** 46 per cent of children in Luton were growing up in relative poverty (End Child Poverty Coalition, 2019). In 2020 this figure initially fell to 39 per cent, demonstrating the positive impact of work by partners across Luton.

But three great challenges– the pandemic, war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis – has seen a further squeeze on public finances and 350,000 more children living in poverty across the UK (a total of 4.2 million children) compared to the previous year.

And these global challenges have been exacerbated by economic challenges within the UK in recent months: as energy bills remain high; increased cost of borrowing faced by households and businesses and inevitably even greater restriction of funding to vital public services to come. This means that recently:



**Total living costs are estimated to have increased by up to 35% in the last two years for some household groups.**



**Food prices increased by 19.2% in the year to March 2023.**



**Nationally, enquiries regarding fuel debts have become the number one debt enquiry that Citizens Advice have supported, from fifth a year earlier.**



**Although unemployment rates are above the national average, Luton has seen labour shortages and in-work poverty, with 28,000 employees (30%) being paid below living wage in 2022, a rise from the 22,800 in 2021.**



**In 2021/22 39% of Luton children lived in low income family households (HMRC)**



**This winter, 37 'Warm Spaces' opened across Luton; 3,160 residents visited these warm spaces in the month of January 2023 alone.**



**For Oct '21 to Sep '22 there was a 33% increase in vouchers distributed for food parcels in Luton.**

**The alleviation of poverty continues to sit right at the heart of our vision for Luton.**



## Luton 2040: measuring our progress

We know that measuring progress and impact in a town-wide system is complicated. In our 2023 report, we focus on trends: how, in the years coming out of the pandemic, has Luton changed? What hasn't changed? What's worked? What still needs improvement?

It's also important to note that this is a system-wide report about a system-wide approach. This isn't about the work of one organisation, but about how a collective vision for our shared future is changing Luton. The report has been shaped by leaders from across the town as we have worked together to understand the data, give reflections and make proposals for next steps.

The main evidence base for this report comes from the *Joint Strategic Overview of Health and Wider Determinants in Luton 2023*, alongside Luton Council's Minimum Income Standard and Social Progress Index, and the 'Growing up in Luton' survey.



# Poverty in Luton

**Central to our vision for Luton 2040 is creating a town free of poverty, and so understanding the picture of poverty within Luton is crucial.**

## Summary

Luton's minimum income standard reports that 8.9 per cent of Luton households live in destitution and a further 11.8 per cent of households are struggling to pay for some basic essentials.

The Social Progress Index highlights Central, South and Dallow wards as the worst performing in regard to basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity.

Child poverty in the town has dropped from 45 per cent to 39.1 per cent.

## Minimum income standard

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is our key measure for tracking poverty within Luton. This model estimates that 8.9% of Luton households live in destitution – homes that are severely financially stretched and struggle to afford essentials. Their outgoings significantly outweigh their low incomes, and debt may be a major worry, with physical and mental health maybe suffering as a consequence – that's 20,000 people who are unable to afford basic living essentials. Beyond that, a further 11.8% of households, a further 27,000 residents, are struggling to pay for some basic essentials.

These figures have risen since the 2022 data, which saw 7.2 per cent below the destitution line and 11.4 per cent struggling for some basic essentials. While this data isn't comparable like-for-like to the national picture, we can see from data such as the 37 per cent rise in the distribution of emergency food parcels nationally that this is not specifically a Luton problem. We also note that households in destitution nationally rose by almost 250 per cent between 2017 and 2022.

The MIS also shows that more than half of the town's households (50.1%) are below the financial quality of life line – preventing them fully participating socially and culturally within society.



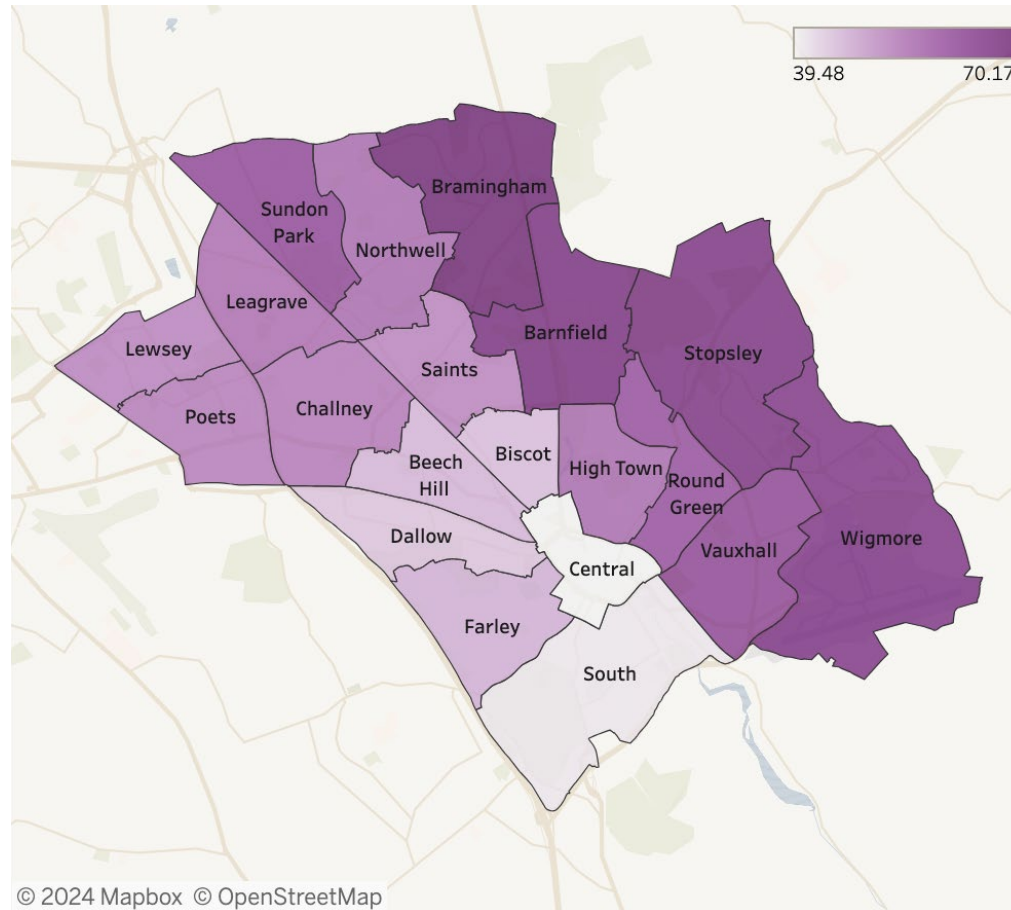


## Social Progress Index

Luton's Social Progress Index (SPI) seeks to measure poverty within the town independently of economic factors and is composed of three dimensions: basic human needs (such as nutrition, water and housing); foundations of wellbeing (such as access to information and communication, and environmental quality); and opportunity (such as person rights, and inclusiveness).

Index scores are scaled 0-100 on ward level, with 100 being the highest score in terms of social progress. In the map above, the scale runs from light to dark in which the darkest shade represents the strongest performing ward.

The above map shows SPI across Luton, showing the strongest performing wards in the North and East of the town, with areas that are struggling predominantly in the South and West of the town. The SPI also shows strong correlation with income – areas with higher income such as Bramingham and Barnfield have better social outcomes. Areas of the town habited by newer communities, often settling around the centre of the town, show lower social progress.



## Child Poverty

The Centre for Research in Social Policy reported a 5.5 per cent reduction in the town's child poverty figures in 2023, with 39 per cent of children in low income households, compared to the previous figure of 45 per cent. The End Child Poverty Coalition claims that the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments is a key driver of poverty. A recent Freedom of Information request revealed that the cap impacts over 1,700 families within Luton, including more than 6,000 children.

# What is going well?

## A town to be part of

Our community is at the heart of our vision for Luton 2040. Our vision is for a town that is built on fairness and social justice, with a strong voluntary and community sector that supports the resilience of our most vulnerable residents. We want to ensure that our residents continue to have a strong sense of civic pride, social responsibility and a powerful voice to shape the future of our town. A number of recent data points suggest that progress is being made across this area.

## A happier population

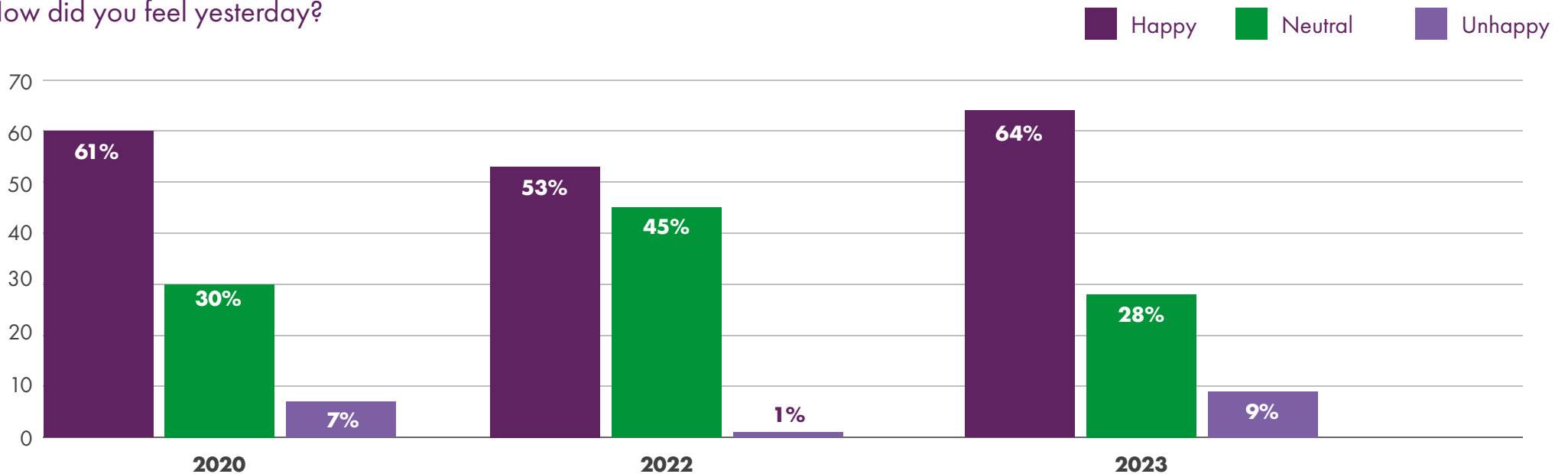
Almost two-thirds of those asked (64 per cent) consider themselves happy, compared to 53 per cent last year. Sadly, unhappiness has also increased to 9 per cent this year compared to only 1 per cent last year and 7 per cent in 2020.

The younger population under the age of 45, seem to be generally happier (69 per cent) than those over the age of 45 (57 per cent).

## Luton is a less anxious place to live

Not only has the percentage of people with a high anxiety score dropped in Luton, but these figures also compare very favourably to both national and nearest neighbour comparisons – with Luton's score of 17.5 per cent significantly lower than the national average of 22.6 per cent.

## How did you feel yesterday?



## Luton is a generous town

A report from JustGiving in 2023 reported that Luton was the third-most generous area in the UK. On top of this is Luton Airport's ongoing investment in the town, at 53p invested into Luton per passenger, 26 times more than any other UK airport, including support for a wide variety of charitable and community groups within the town.

## An improving town centre

Despite still facing some challenges, the Luton Residents' Survey reported that the percentage of Luton residents rating the town centre as 'good' has risen significantly from **26% in 2021** to **46% in 2022**, similarly those rating the town centre as 'poor' has dropped from **45% to 28% over the same period.**



## Anti-social behaviour dropping

Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour within Luton has **more than halved since 2016**, with annual reported incidents dropping from **over 9,000 to below 4,000.**



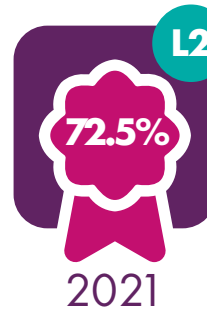
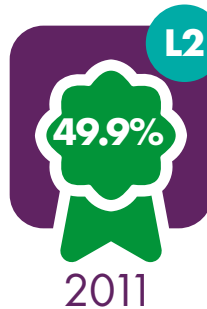
## Business and skills

### A more skilled workforce

Over the last decade, Luton has seen a significant drop in the percentage of the working age population without qualifications, from 18 per cent in 2011, to 9.8 per cent in 2021. While this is still above the national average of 6.4 per cent, it shows a significant, positive trend in this area.



Similarly, the proportion of people with level 2 qualifications and above has increased in Luton from 49.9 per cent in 2011 to 72.5 per cent in 2021, while the proportion of people with degree-level qualifications and above has been increasing in Luton from 19.8 per cent in 2011 to 37.1 per cent in 2021. Both of these figures remain below the national average but show more positive trends.



Luton's Adult learning recently achieved 'good' in its Ofsted rating and is the only place in the country to overachieve on its Multiply learner numbers, a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills.



## An outstanding town for business

A 2023 Centre for Cities report shows that the economy within the town is flourishing, with the highest gross value added growth rate outside of London. Similarly, a Fasthosts report said that Luton was the best location in the UK to start a new business.

## A child-friendly town

### A town with good schools

90 per cent pupils in Luton are attending 'good' or 'outstanding' schools, above the national average of 88 per cent.



### Fewer NEET young people



Just 3.7 per cent of 16-17 year olds in Luton are reported as NEET or unknown, which compares very favourably to both regional (4.2 per cent) and national (5.2 per cent) averages.

### Fewer young offenders

First-time entrants into Luton's youth offending services dropped for the fifth consecutive year, resulting in a 72 per cent decline in cases entering the youth justice system over that period. Over the same timeframe, cases have risen nationally.



## Progress towards Net-Zero

Sustainability is at the heart of our long-term vision for Luton. Together, we recognise the importance of the climate emergency and the threat this poses to our local environment and our planet as a whole. Protecting the long-term future of the planet and the resources it provides is essential to maintaining growth, protecting the long-term security of our residents and preventing poverty. Becoming a net zero town is at the heart of our vision for Luton in 2040. With this in mind, we acknowledge the tension created by the presence of the town's airport, with the knowledge of the emissions created by air travel, but appreciate that the airport remains a key economic driver for the town, creating 1000s of jobs and funding essential services delivered by both the local council and Luton's voluntary and charitable sector. We also acknowledge the airport's ongoing work to decarbonise the operational emissions and access to the airport.

The latest reporting period saw emissions per capita in Luton at **just 65 per cent of the national average** (2.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e compared to 4.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). This is alongside a steady decline in emissions over the last 15 years, with an average year-on-year decline of 3% during that period. Emissions broken down by sector also compare favourably within the town: local authority, commercial, domestic, industrial, transport and public sectors all rank in the bottom 20% for emissions compared to the borough's nearest comparable neighbours. Each of these areas has also seen steady reductions over the past 15 years. As well as this, the town is home to the second most sustainable university in the UK (UK University Rankings, 2022).





## Supporting our community

In light of existing casework highlighting low awareness of pension credit, the Welfare Support Team took a focus on Pension Credit (PC) eligible households and its positive impacts on income and costs. It was also recognised that given the age of the cohort, improved financial stability within households would likely have a positive impact in terms of reducing need for funded care. As part of this work:

**180** households identified who were entitled to pension credit in Luton and who were not claiming their entitlement.



**138** supported to claim.



**114** pension credit claims processed by DWP to date (24 applications awaiting processing).



**£566,753** total awards including backdated payments, regular ongoing awards, Cost of Living Payments.



An average of **£9,943** per household was awarded since the start of this campaign across 2022 and 2023. Further to this, PC has opened up access to the following:



Bus Passes with total value of **£98,800**



NHS Prescriptions with total value of **£1,824,000**



TV Licences with total value of **£4,699**



Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions with a total value of **£22,000**

## Large scale town achievements

The opening of the Luton DART, which seamlessly and sustainably connects the airport terminal and the mainline railway at Luton Airport Parkway station.

The opening of Hat Gardens and opening up of the River Lea in the town centre.

Planning permission secured for a number of development sites, bringing further investment and hundreds of jobs into the town.



An additional average of **£35,000** per household was awarded since the start of this campaign across 2022 and 2023. This means that over the likely lifetime of their claims, **£4.5m** will be brought into these households.



# Areas where work is needed

## Health inequalities

Despite trends in the area of health and wellbeing being mostly neutral, across a number of key health and wellbeing indicators, Luton is performing worse than national and regional averages.

Headline measures such as life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and mortality are all significantly worse in Luton than national and regional averages, as has been the case historically. It must be noted that the data has a lag (the latest data is a three-year rolling average from 2021) and as such does not show any impact since we started working towards 2040, instead it gives a snapshot of where we are as a town. We also recognise that health inequalities exist in the context of poverty, and the UK's changing economic landscape is likely to impact this further. Reducing this health inequality is a key motivation of our 2040 vision and a vital area of town-wise ongoing work.

The figures surrounding preventative health measures are equally worrying. Immunisations, substance misuse and obesity levels all compared unfavourably to national figures, as do screenings for breast and cervical cancer. Perhaps the biggest worry is that the trend is negative in these areas, getting worse rather than getting better.

One interesting case study to note is bowel cancer screening, an area in which GPs have undertaken a lot of proactive work; this has seen an upwards trend of screening in the town compared to screening for breast and cervical cancer.

Health outcomes for children and young people are poorer in Luton when compared with the national picture. This includes: infant mortality rate; low-birth-weight; emergency

asthma and epilepsy admissions; proportion of five year olds with tooth decay; year 6 obesity and mental health presentations at accident and emergency. By five years of age, children from our poorest families are 15 months behind those from our more affluent families in vocabulary skills. Data also shows that fewer secondary school students eating fruit or vegetables or doing exercise compared to previous years.





### All Cause Mortality for Males under 75

#### National Comparison

The all-cause mortality rate for males aged under-75 in Luton is currently 599.2. This is significantly higher than the national average of 448.0.

#### Trend

3-year's data is unavailable for this indicator.



### All Cause Mortality for Females under 75

#### National Comparison

The all-cause mortality rate for females aged under-75 in Luton is currently 330.5. This is significantly higher than the national average of 283.4.

#### Trend

3-year's data is unavailable for this indicator.

The **Growing up in Luton survey** also showed that **31% of secondary students eat takeaway food** during school lunchtime at least once a week.





## An inactive population

Despite the town's emissions comparing well to national averages, the numbers of adults regularly walking or cycling (for any purpose) do not compare as favourably. Just 59 per cent of the town's population walk or cycle at least once a week, compared to the national average of 71 per cent.

Similarly, just 57 per cent of adults in Luton are deemed to be physically active, significantly lower than the national average of 66 per cent.



### National Comparison

### Trend

### Physically active adults



It is estimated that 56.8% of adults in Luton are deemed to be physically active which is significantly lower than the national estimate of 65.9%.

There is no significant change in the percentage of physically active adults in Luton over the latest 3 years.



## Housing issues

Luton has very high levels of homelessness and there are particular challenges noted for the rate of households in temporary accommodation. The rate of households in temporary accommodation in Luton is significantly higher than national and regional figures.

Luton has however seen a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough. Official rough sleeping numbers as recorded on a single night for the autumn count in Luton have notably decreased over the past few years: Although in recent months, in common with other areas, broader issues, most notably the Home Offices change in approach to Asylum Seekers, have driven an increase in numbers sleeping rough.

There was a marked improvement in the proportion of affordable homes approved through planning permissions in 2022/23 (16%), compared to previous years (3% in 2021/22). Delivering additional affordable housing remains a local priority but progress has been hampered by substantial building cost inflation which affects scheme viability.

Just under **14 households per 1000** are in temporary accommodation within the town, compared to a **national average of 4 households per 1000**, and an East of England **average of just over 2 households per 1000**.



## Unemployment

Despite the rising rate of skills within Luton, the levels of employment within the town still sits below national averages, with the town's employment rate sitting at 67.5 per cent compared with the national figure of 75.8 per cent. The employment rate in the town continues to fall, after peaking in 2018.

Linked to this is the **claimant count** for unemployment benefit, which **sits at 5.7%, compared to the national average of 3.9%**.



It is also disappointing to note that just 35 per cent of workers within the town are in higher level occupations compared to the national figure of 51 per cent.



And of those **higher-earning jobs** within the town (within the top tax bracket), **60% of those jobs are held by non-Luton residents**.

## Educational attainment

Despite the town's good and outstanding schools, educational attainment and attendance remains a worry. Just 58 per cent of pupils' reading, writing and maths are at the expected levels at Key Stage Two.

The town is below the national average for attainment across a variety of measures at all key stages.

Absence from school has greatly increased from pre-pandemic levels in line with the national picture. Persistent absence has more than doubled. Overall attendance was the same as the national average but our persistent absence was much worse. Luton-specific absence issues are due to unauthorised leave ('holidays'), religious observance and key stage 1 attendance is poor. As children go through the school system their school attendance generally increases, compared with the national average.



## Safety, happiness and worry among young people

Despite an improvement in happiness for some in our population, this is not the case for our young people. A health and education survey of over 2,000 young people in Luton schools offered a number of worrying statistics. The 'Growing Up in Luton' survey reported that 14 per cent of secondary school pupils say that they, a friend or family member have been threatened or harmed by someone with a weapon, with 10% of respondents saying they are 'fairly sure' or 'certain' that they or a friend carry weapons. While this is a drop from previous years' figures, they still remain stark, particularly in the light of recent deaths from knife crime within the town.

The same report said that 43 per cent of secondary students don't enjoy living in Luton, an increase from the previous year's figure of 29 per cent.

The impact of poverty on young people is affecting their education, with 29 per cent of primary pupils saying they found it difficult to concentrate in the last week because of hunger. 23 per cent of primary children taking part in a survey didn't have anything to eat before they started lessons on the day they were asked.

Hearing the voices of young people is a core value in our vision for 2040 – the key question is how we as a system respond to what they have said.





## Residents' survey and public spending

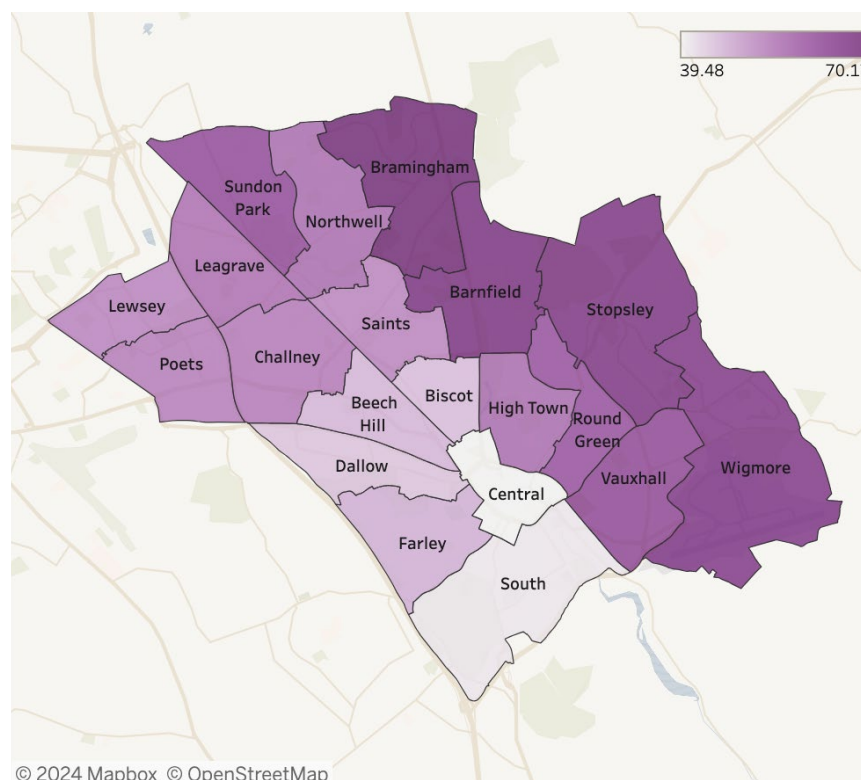
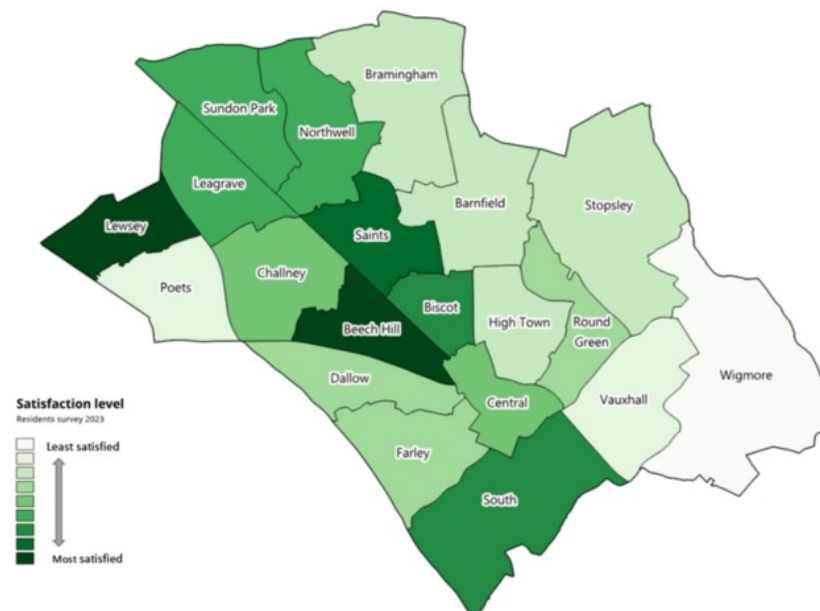
Only 59 per cent of respondents to a recent residents' survey said they were satisfied with Luton as a place to live, compared to 73 per cent last year. While this is disappointing we note that this is in the context of a cost of living crisis, a squeeze in public spending and a drop in satisfaction nationally. Cleanliness and perceived safety were cited as two of the reasons for this drop.

The same survey reports that 40 per cent of residents are optimistic about the future of Luton, compared to 75 per cent last year.

A further look into the data shows something interesting. The map below shows satisfaction by wards within the town, with the darker highlighting showing higher satisfaction.

If we compare this to the Social Progress Index (as seen on page 12), we see it is the more socially progressed areas of the town that have the least satisfaction, which perhaps is the opposite of what we'd expect to see.

What might be behind this? One data point from the Institute for Fiscal studies may be illuminating. Their figures show that Luton has the second lowest public spending figure, compared to the relative need within the town in England. With the limited resources that we have, are we having to spend more on the most deprived areas of the town, leaving greater dissatisfaction in wealthier areas?



# How the system is responding

We know that these system-wide, complex problems do not come with easy solutions. But our system is responding. Here are three ways in which this is already happening.

## Money matters

**Money Matters CB** is Luton's Credit Union. It's owned by its members and operated not for profit, as a response to subprime credit use in Luton, low confidence levels in managing money and other measures of poverty as discussed earlier in the report.

**Money Matters CB** has a clear purpose to:

- Provide affordable credit to those in our community who would otherwise borrow from high interest lenders or loan sharks;
- Support our community through periods of financial difficulty;
- Support the development of positive financial habits from childhood through to old age;
- Help our most vulnerable to be active members of society.

## Health equity town

One town-wide response to health issues and inequalities has been Luton becoming a "health equity town" - working with the UCL Institute of Health Equity and Professor Sir Michael Marmot's team to embed actions aligned to the eight "Marmot Principles" across the system. The eight principles are:

**1.** Give every child the best start in life



**2.** Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives



**3.** Create fair employment and good work for all



**4.** Ensure a healthy standard of living for all



**5.** Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities



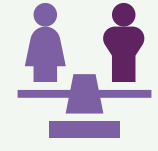
**6.** Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention



**7.** Tackle discrimination, racism and their outcomes



**8.** Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together





## Operation Metal

Luton Town Centre sees the most concentrated area of crime within Bedfordshire. Evidence-Based Policing identifies a requirement of concentrated effort, to achieve a reduction on the demand for police departments. Operation Metal aims to make Luton Town Centre a place that feels safer, is safer and significantly reduce threat, harm, risk and service demand for police and partners. This is done by focussing an 'All-systems approach' to tackle the root causes, such as the drug market, and working in partnership to sustainably maintain the gains from enforcement with a phase of regeneration, designing out opportunity for criminality and anti-social behaviour and support services. The first three months of this work have seen a 15 per cent reduction of crime in this area.



# Responses to the data

We asked a variety of system leaders from across the town to respond to the data in this report – what stood out to them, and how we might work going forwards in light of it.



**Jeremy Williams,**  
**Zero Carbon Luton**

Our response to climate change is a vital part of the Luton 2040 vision. We need to take responsibility for our carbon emissions, and we also need to prepare for more extreme weather and greater uncertainty in a changing world. Our response to climate change is intimately connected to so many other strands of the vision, from poverty to health, to a child-friendly town.

There have been a number of positive steps in the right direction in the last year. Some are obvious, such as the very visible and high-profile DART, which encourages greener travel to and from the airport. Others are easily missed because they have been rolled out without fanfare over several years, such as the complete upgrading of Luton's streetlights to more efficient LEDs.

Residents have also been able to access cheaper solar panels through the Solar Together scheme, or trial an electric bike - Luton is one of the first places in the country to benefit from the Cycling Made Easy scheme. Teachers and schools have been able to start their journey into climate action through a council training and mentoring programme, which I have been delighted to be involved in delivering. The Luton 2040 Net Zero Roadmap will stitch these sorts of projects together and scale them up as we plot our route to a greener and fairer Luton by 2040.

Challenges remain, from supporting sustainable heating in our homes, to reducing our above-average car dependency, and encouraging more walking and cycling. I know I am not alone in my frustration at the state of

Luton's train station, a gateway to the town and a hub for sustainable travel choices, which seems mired in an intractable cycle of dereliction.

There are also huge opportunities, and two really stand out to me. One is the way that climate action can support poverty action in the town, for example by insulating homes and reducing bills for residents at a time when energy bills have really tested household budgets. So many climate policies have the added benefits of lowering costs, improving people's lives, and reducing health inequalities.

A second big opportunity has been obvious to me as I've been working with young people on the peer-led Youth Climate Conference, and that is Luton's youthful population. We should be preparing young people for green jobs - jobs that won't be at risk from climate change or future green policy, and that support the transition to a low carbon economy. We need to create and support those sorts of jobs here, building the skill-base we need for the clean energy transition and reaping the benefits in our local economy. The best people to fit those solar panels and heat pumps, and retrofit Luton's homes for net zero by 2040, are at Luton's schools and colleges right now.





## Helen Barnett, Chief Executive, Active Luton

Although there is still a long way to go, our teams are making great progress in contributing to improving population wellbeing, one of the Luton 2040 priorities. The 2021 Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census data shows that Luton has worse than average levels of both female and male healthy life expectancy, levels of smoking, childhood obesity at year 6 and overweight adults. However, it is interesting and heartening to see that we have higher than average levels of happiness and life satisfaction, and that is what we want to build on.

We will continue to develop our programmes to improve health and wellbeing, whether this is with our successful Stop Smoking programme, Social Prescription service or long-term conditions programmes with very close links to



## Alex House, Superintendent for Prevention of Crime

Bedfordshire Police is working hard with partners to make Luton a town built on fairness, by tackling crime and its causes and making this sustainable, by driving efficiencies and maximising value for money.

We are committed to improving public safety and build trust in policing, helping to make the town a safer place for all, with a focus on young people at the heart of this, to help Luton to become a child-friendly town. The current joined-up focus on the town centre will make bigger gains, reduce pressures on all partners and help to build an inclusive economy, by making the town an appealing place for investors to grow their businesses and creating jobs.



## Cllr Hazel Simmons, Leader, Luton Council

Reading this report, it is heartening to see that almost two-thirds of our residents consider themselves happy. The high percentage of pupils attending 'good' or 'outstanding' schools and the low rate of 16-17 year olds classified as NEET are indicative of the positive strides we have made in education and youth support. Additionally, the reduction in emissions per capita is a testament to our efforts to combat the climate emergency.

While it is encouraging to see a decrease in child poverty from 45 per cent to 39 per cent, the fact that 8.9 per cent of households are living in destitution, with an additional 11.8% struggling to meet basic needs, is a stark reminder of the work that remains to be done. This is why tackling poverty sits at the heart of our Luton 2040 vision.

The decline in resident satisfaction, from 73 per cent to 59 per cent, is a worry. We recognise that there is room for improvement in terms of delivering essential services and ensuring that residents feel their needs are met. Additionally, the revelation that Luton has the second lowest public spending figure, compared to the relative need within the town in England, underscores two things: the necessity of responsible fiscal management; and ongoing dialogue with central government to ensure Luton is getting the support it needs. With this in mind, the role of Luton Airport, as an economic driver for the economy of the town cannot be underestimated.

There are areas where significant work is needed. The disparities in wellbeing measures such as life expectancy and mortality rates in comparison to national and regional averages are concerning. Addressing these disparities is a top priority for the council, and we will collaborate with healthcare providers and community organisations to improve health outcomes for all residents.

Furthermore, the high levels of homelessness and households in temporary accommodation are challenges that demand our immediate attention. We will work to expand housing support services and explore innovative solutions to reduce homelessness and provide stable living conditions for our residents.

It is then encouraging to read about the ongoing upskilling of our town's workforce in this report - the drop in the percentage of the working age population without qualifications, from 18 per cent in 2011, to 9.8 per cent in 2021, is something to be celebrated. But the lower

employment rate in Luton compared to the national figure is a concern, and we are dedicated to supporting job creation, vocational training, and workforce development initiatives to bridge this gap.

While we celebrate the progress we have made in various areas, we also recognise the challenges that persist. The Luton 2040 vision remains our guiding light, and we are unwavering in our commitment to building a healthy, fair, and sustainable town where everyone can thrive.







## **Kwesi Edubatey, Ghana Society UK**

Ghana Society welcomes the 2040 vision and is proud of the relationship it has built with the council and the town as a whole over many years. We are excited to see how the Black African and Caribbean community has progressed over the years; Ghana Society has been a trailblazer and will continue to be so in our support to other communities within our town. Ghana Society has been instrumental in promoting the African community since 2006 through the Carnival, the Kente Festival, Black history cultural workshops and exhibitions.

We support the 2040 vision of equal opportunities through strategies such as the Fairness Taskforce and Social Justice Unit which we endorse; we will continue to work in partnership across the town to achieve the vision

of a town where all residents thrive, are treated fairly, with equal opportunities and equity for all our diverse population.

Part of our support for the 2040 vision is to engage young people in our town by offering a safe environment through empowering, engagement and gaining life skills set that offer opportunities to make them better people and for our town. This vision will be achieved by working with like-minded organisations with the same objectives and goals. We are working with local organisations in providing support for apprenticeships for our 16-19 year olds.

We are promoting our cultural heritage through workshops and events which show our culture, enhance community cohesion and strengthen our cultural identity. We are happy to support and contribute to achieving the 2040 vision in working closely with the council and all stakeholders.



## **Oli Jaycock, London Luton Airport**

At London Luton Airport, we're aware of the influence we have in Luton, as a key local employer and economic driver. We continue to support the town's growth, while being mindful of our impact on the local environment, seeking to operate and grow in a sustainable and responsible way.

Luton 2040 recognises the airport will always be at the heart of the town's economy. Its future success is crucial in helping improve people's lives and driving economic growth in the town and beyond. As the airport operator, we are proud to celebrate our progress towards the Luton 2040 vision, while acknowledging that there is still a long way to go.

Over the last year, we have worked towards Luton 2040 priorities by:

- Allocating 53 per cent of our procurement spend to local suppliers: We recognise the role this plays in creating employment and helping money to stay within the local economy. This is a significant increase from the previous year, and is largely due to our concerted effort to support and engage with local suppliers.
- We have become an accredited Real Living Wage workplace, reflecting our commitment to be a responsible and ethical employer. Our Real Living Wage commitment applies to both directly employed, and on-site third party contracted staff, regardless of age. Given the financial hardship many people face

due to increasing living costs, this has never been more important.

- We have approved our roadmap to Net Zero: we continue to invest in ways to reduce our environmental impact including low carbon vehicles, on-site renewables, and phasing out gas for heating. By 2026, we aim to generate 25 per cent of electricity through the use of renewables; a feasibility study highlighted solar as the most viable route.
- We have developed our first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy, based on an in-depth consultation with our people. This includes short-term actions (such as reviewing policies and processes), medium-term actions (such as working with supply chain

and sustainability teams to embed diversity criteria within procurement frameworks) and ongoing actions, aimed at creating a more diverse senior team and incorporating ED&I throughout our internal communications.

- We continue to invest in and support the local community, contributing £150k to our Community Trust Fund benefiting 13,400 people. We launched a £100,000 pilot Greener Future Fund to help tackle biodiversity initiatives and projects, awarding a further ten grants in Luton and beyond. This is in addition to staff and passenger fund raising and for our charity partners Luton Foodbank and East Anglian Air Ambulance.







**Professor Andrew Church,  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
(Research and Innovation),  
University of Bedfordshire**

The University of Bedfordshire is proud to be one of the local anchor institutions that has pledged to support the Luton 2040 vision. In 2023 the University and Luton Borough Council signed a new Civic Agreement that commits the University to work in partnership with the council to deliver the five priorities in the 2040 vision. The progress report indicates the positive changes resulting from the key organisations in Luton working together but more remains to be done. The university is pleased to be playing a central role in the Employment and Skills strategy for Luton and the progress report clearly shows advances in this area. The work on Inclusive Growth and



Skills means Luton is still a top five town in which to start a business. The university works with the entrepreneurial talent in the town to support the establishment of social enterprises at a high level compared to other university towns and cities.

The progress report highlights the need for more work in the intersections between health, housing and support for children. The poorer-than-national-average health outcomes for children and young people, which is also a strong indicator for health and wellbeing in later life, highlights the need for securing investment for early years interventions and a plan for sustainability of those services. There is also an immediate need for developing more preventative health measures. The University, via the Bedford Luton Milton Keynes Integrated Care System Research and Innovation Hub, aims to make a substantial contribution to developing evidence-based interventions for making step changes towards improving health and wellbeing outcomes in Luton as well as promoting resource efficiency and workforce development.



**David Morris, CEO, Noah**

This report shows that Luton is making good progress towards our 2040 goals, and NOAH is proud to have contributed in a small way towards that progress.

Luton has very strong community bonds, and this creates strong partnerships. These partnerships have enabled residents to thrive, and helped people to weather the storms which we are all living through. NOAH is lucky enough to be part of many local collaborations, such as the Luton Homeless Partnership which has reduced rough sleeping by almost 90 per cent since 2018, Warm Spaces which has saved lives by keeping people warm over the winter, Food First which enables families in poverty to obtain affordable food with dignity, and the Town Centre Partnership Group which is using humane and evidence-based approaches to help people who raise money on the streets to find alternative ways of life.



It must also be recognised that Luton continues to experience many deep-rooted issues such as poverty and inequality. Compared with last year, almost 50 per cent more people are seeking crisis support from NOAH, usually because they are on the brink of homelessness. And worryingly, NOAH is seeing more and more non-UK nationals finding themselves without shelter and food – not because they do not have the legal right to be here, but because the systems that underpin UK life often hinder people with disadvantages. This is an urgent issue that the Luton community can, and I have no doubt will, respond to.

NOAH is proud to be part of the Luton community, and to be part of the Luton 2040 journey.



### **Firoza Abdool-Sathar, Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD)**

Luton is a vibrant mix of culture, skills and languages together with hotspots of deprivation, poverty, lack of facilities and imbalance of businesses in the local area. Many young people are suffering from mental health, social exclusion, housing issues and addiction (substance misuse and gambling).

CYCD is an example of a part of the voluntary and community sector that delivers on many fronts with a wide range of crucial services but we are reliant on small pots of funding to maintain provision which is getting ever so difficult to continue. In addition, valuable dedicated staff can be lost if funding is not timely.

I would like to see many more local people getting and taking on more local jobs and contributing to this economy. There are far too many employed in the local area that come from neighbouring vicinities and as such don't have a vested interest in the area.

I would like my grandchildren to live in a child friendly town. There is much to do to reach that. It starts with adequate housing, living standards, good quality jobs - equal opportunity and equity. I would like to see educational aspirations from schools and more accountability from schools regarding attainment and transition for those with high needs.

We have to make the streets safe and plan our town centre well. This also means keeping our children and young people safe from other harms and from knife crime. Recent incidents have brought home the need for leaders to step up and seek ways to take back control of our neighbourhoods. We all need to know our patch, work collaboratively, open our doors to frontline services and have open dialogue.

We have provided social groups and exercise/yoga for old and young people suffering from mental health issues and signpost as necessary but there is a need for collaboration to invest in culturally appropriate gym facilities that are free or easily affordable within our areas. We would work with other groups to provide free health checks and a coach to motivate users as well.



We know many children who are on free school meals normally don't have the same support over the holidays - we are urging local authorities to work with VCS organisations to provide free meals to make sure our children in our communities do not go hungry.

I applaud Luton 2040 for all that is going well but headline figures cannot be ignored such as life expectancy, homelessness and lower employment rates. It is unacceptable that in this day and age in our modern society we have more than 6,000 children in Luton impacted by poverty in some way.



### **David Jonathan, Luton Council of Faiths**

First and foremost, it is encouraging to see that Luton's 2040 plans contain a focus on developing a more skilled workforce. However, it may also be worthwhile to investigate the reasons why Luton's talent is leaving the town to work. Is there a way to retain the local talents and abilities within Luton? Is there an academic pathway we can show our young people to follow that leads to and corresponds with the possible jobs that Luton has to offer?

Despite the fact that Luton's location has long been regarded as the greatest in the country for businesses, we struggle to draw in and keep high-calibre companies. As such, it might also be worth reviewing how Luton supports small businesses and enterprises. Luton 2040 can also consider playing a more positive role in

beautifying areas like High Town, Bury Park, Sundon, St Dominic Square, and Farley Square, and making them more attractive. It might also be worth looking into how accessible businesses are in Luton, particularly at the weekends around Gypsy Lane and Chaul End Lane. This has an adverse impact on the carbon footprint and local economy, as the local workforce travels to work outside Luton and the local residents travel to shop outside of town. It is also worth assessing the impact of the highest earners in Luton who do not live locally and spend their money outside.

Many reports and community consultations undertaken over the years undermine and undervalue volunteer time. New officers, as they keep changing, are expected to be schooled again by the community. There needs to be an approach of cultural humility which is about bringing people on equal footing in mitigating power imbalances and institutional accountability.

As far as our work is concerned, subject to resources, we're keen to continue developing and sustaining our work with faith leaders and young people on how to make our town respectful and encourage them to become peace ambassadors. Considering 76 per cent of Luton's population is religiously affiliated, we are also keen to share stories of wisdom and values from different faiths and cultures that talk about humanitarian values, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and character strength and building. Looking at Luton's various cultural and faith heritage, we are also exploring how health inequalities can be addressed, linking it all with spirituality.



# Recommendations

**Luton 2040 is overseen by a joint board, made up of the town's Inclusive Economy and Health and Wellbeing Boards.**

**In response to this report, this group has made these system-wide recommendations:**



**1. We acknowledge that poverty within the town is a complex, multi-faceted issue. Our recommendations in this area include both furthering our attempts to fully understand drivers of poverty as well as more immediate responses:**

- a.** Using data tools such as the Minimum Income Standard to explore policy interventions which could take people out of poverty.
- b.** Identify and deliver a series of key projects that will lift people out of destitution within the shorter term.
- c.** Create a poverty-proof workpack for organisations and businesses enabling them to become more accessible for those living in poverty.

**2. In regard to health inequalities around the town, we recommend that partners work to:**

- a.** Ensure all stakeholders understand the role they can and are playing in tackling health inequalities, including creating safe environments for children and young people in order to give them the best start in life;
- b.** Raise awareness of Marmot principles and issues surrounding health inequalities within workforce development across our organisations.

**3. While it is not fully clear what the drivers for low levels of employment within Luton are, we acknowledge the role that Luton businesses have to play in tackling this. The 2040 priority to focus on local spending has seen some success and so we recommend businesses showing equal commitment to local employment as they have to spending. To go alongside this, we will seek to build up case studies of successful recruitment drives within Luton, acknowledging the unique nature of the town, in order to help businesses successfully recruit in the area.**



4. **We recognise that the satisfaction of our residents is the responsibility of the entire system. To address this we recommend the system finds tangible and practical ways to ensure that the voice of residents, including young people, is heard clearly and regularly, particularly in regard to satisfaction.**
5. **We note the high number of our town's pupils in good or outstanding schools, but remain concerned about Luton's progress and attainment measures (expected standards for reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2; attainment 8 and progress 8 at Key Stage 4). We recommended shifting our focus towards progress and attainment in future reports, and working across the system to improve these.**
6. **The success of recent work in making residents aware of the support they are entitled to is very encouraging. We recommend that a similar approach is rolled out, to ensure that all front-line workers are aware of the various levels of support available for those they are working with. Similarly, we recommend exploring whether some of these processes could be streamlined/automated, noting the success other councils have had with this in regard to free school meals.**

7. **In order to deliver on the above, we need to continue to develop how we work best as a system. Our response to this must go both wider (more organisations signing up) and deeper (organisations pledging to do more). Our recommendations in this area are four-fold:**

- a. Organisations represented by the joint 2040 board all ensure they sign up to and create a Luton 2040 pledge. For organisations who have already signed up, they will think about their role as ambassadors and encourage other organisations to sign up.
- b. Pledge reviews: Regular check-ins with organisations who have taken pledges, reflecting on progress and exploring new areas where commitments could be made.
- c. Conduct a review of Luton 2040's governance structures, ensuring that these are inclusive of the variety of voices needed to deliver this vision.
- d. Work together with partners to outline a plan for system-wide delivery of 2040: this includes developing a comprehensive roadmap showing our journey towards 2040, and creating system-wide performance indicators allowing us to fully understand our progress towards 2040.
- e. Working with residents to create greater buy-in across the system towards Luton 2040, and explore the roles of residents in achieving our vision.

## FUTURE WORK

- **Create a resident-friendly version of this progress report, celebrating our successes and highlighting areas we can all work together on.**
- **Further reporting on achievements and work from pledge-taking organisations to be included in the next progress report.**



# APPENDIX I

## Poverty in Luton

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is our key measure for tracking poverty within Luton. Created by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, but made bespoke for housing costs and council tax within Luton, it details what different household types (i.e. couples, single people, families with children) need to spend in order to reach a minimum socially acceptable standard of living. This will include spend on more basic requirements such as clothing, food and rent, but also things like social and cultural participation (days out) – those things that people consider necessary to have the opportunities and choices to fully participate in society in the UK. The MIS is aspirational and reflects what the household outgoings would be if people were to financially participate fully in society and have a good 'financial quality of life'. This is our developing method of understanding the cost of living for our households and is part of our local picture to understand 'poverty' in the town.

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is our key measure for tracking poverty within Luton. This model estimates that 8.9 per cent of Luton households live in destitution – homes that are severely financially stretched and struggle to afford essentials. Their outgoings significantly outweigh their low incomes, and debt may be a major worry, with

physical and mental health maybe suffering as a consequence – that's 20,000 people who are unable to afford basic living essentials. Beyond that, a further 11.8 per cent of households, a further 27,000 residents, are struggling to pay for some basic essentials.

These figures have risen since the 2022 data, which saw 7.2 per cent below the destitution line and 11.4 per cent struggling for some basic essentials. While this data isn't comparable like-for-like to the national picture, we can see from data such as the 37 per cent rise in the distribution of emergency food parcels nationally that this is not specifically a Luton problem.

The MIS also shows that more than half of the town's households (50.1%) are below the financial quality of life line – preventing them fully participating socially and culturally within society.

Although there is a trend between income and the proportion of households within each of the respective bands, the model is not just about wealth as it shows estimated household costs relative to incomes. Some households with low incomes (such as retired or single people) are more resilient because their required outgoings are lower – and conversely some parts of

Luton with significant household incomes are struggling because their high outgoings push them below their estimated household incomes (particularly households with children). Therefore, the picture is not as clear cut as may be expected – however areas with family households and low incomes (such as Biscot, Dallow and Marsh Farm) are more likely to be struggling.





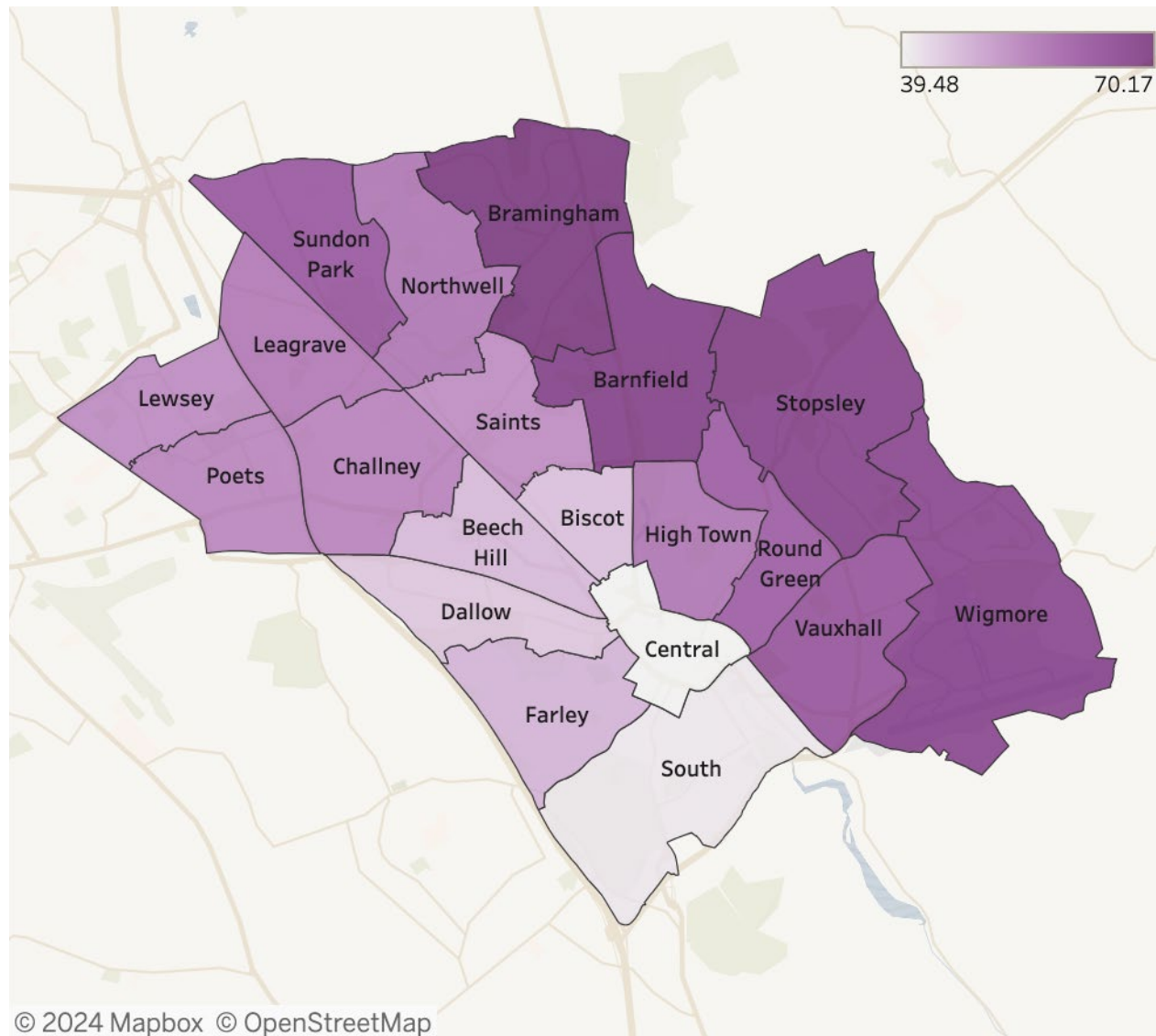
## Social Progress Index

Luton's Social Progress Index (SPI) is composed of three dimensions: basic human needs (such as nutrition, water and housing); foundations of wellbeing (such as access to information and communication, and environmental quality); and opportunity (such as person rights, and inclusiveness). Luton's SPI includes a detailed list of indicators across the town's 20 wards to visualise wellbeing independent of economic indicators.

Despite these indicators being independent of economic factors, there is strong correlation between the SPI and both household income and index of multiple deprivation.

Index scores are scaled 0-100 on ward level where 0 signifies worst performance and 100 best performance. In the map above, the scale runs from light to dark in which the darkest shade represents the strongest performing ward.

The above map shows SPI across Luton, showing the strongest performing wards in the North East of the town, with areas that are struggling predominantly in the South and West of the town.



# APPENDIX II

## Health inequalities

The Denny Review investigated health-related inequalities in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK). The published evidence explains why some people face much worse health outcomes than others. These factors are:

**40 per cent: Socio-economic factors** – including low income and low educational attainment

**10 per cent: Physical environment** – poor housing, poor air quality and a lack of green spaces

**30 per cent: Health behaviours** – for example, smoking, drinking excess alcohol, or not taking enough exercise or eating a healthy diet

**20 per cent: Healthcare** – if a person is not accessing health services or if they do not meet their needs

These factors often combine to mean that a person facing health inequality is more likely to be in poor health. The following groups are more likely to be affected by health inequalities: People living in deprived neighbourhoods; People from ethnic minorities; LGBT+ people; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people; People with physical or learning disabilities; People who have experienced homelessness.





# LUTON 2040





# LUTON 2040

Moving from vision to reality



## Thank you for reading



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