

# Population Change in RURAL and URBAN areas of the UK

## RURAL AREAS

In remote rural areas population continues to decline with the following consequences:

- An ageing population structure as the young move away to seek employment
- Deprivation sets in - many of the people left cannot move and lead restricted lives
- Many homes are purchased as second-homes by city dwellers, creating a ghost-town effect for much of the year
- A sharp decline in rural services, such as post offices and general stores

In accessible parts of the rural-urban fringe, settlements are continuing to expand with the following consequences:

- The creation of housing estates, often at prices that local people can't afford
- Increased traffic congestion as many newcomers are commuters; households often have more than one car
- Villages become dormitory settlements with little life during the day
- Conflicts can arise between established residents and newcomers

## URBAN AREAS

Population decline has been experienced in many inner city areas with the following consequences:

- Continued out-migration of the upwardly mobile leaving behind the most deprived members of society
- Much empty, derelict property and many vacant boarded-up shops, high levels of graffiti and vandalism
- The closure of schools and low levels of educational attainment in those remaining
- High levels of unemployment, resulting in a lack of spending power by the local population
- High concentrations of ethnic minorities

Population growth in the suburbs has occurred with the following consequences:

- The loss of open space and farm land as new developments occur
- Increased flood risk, where development has taken place on flood plain land
- The building of major transport routes to accommodate commuters and industries relocating in the suburbs
- The construction of modern housing estates at low densities with expensive homes occupied by higher socio-economic groups

© anforme limited www.anforme.co.uk Text: Amanda Barker

