

South Cambridgeshire – rural growth

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South Cambridgeshire experiencing rapid growth as people move out of Cambridge and London (counter-urbanisation). It is going through rural growth.

- Population of 150000 is increasing due to migration from the UK and Eastern Europe:
- In 2013, National Insurance numbers from migrant workers soared by 25% compared to 2012
- Proportion of people aged 65 or over is growing (2031 will reach 29% of population)
- Population estimated to reach 182000 by 2031

Impacts:

- Commuters use services where they work (urban centres) – negative effect on local rural economy
- 80% car ownership, increased traffic on narrow country roads, reduces demand for public transport
- Modern developments on the edges of villages and gentrification of abandoned farm buildings can lead to a breakdown in community spirit
- Young people cannot afford high costs of houses and move away
- Reduction in agricultural employment as farmers sell their land for development (increased construction jobs)
- Lack of affordable housing
- High petrol prices in the country due to high demand
- Increasing number of migrants from poorer parts of Europe puts pressure on services and increase overall costs

