

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2006-2007

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2007

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

To approve the Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007 and its formal submission to the Secretary of State.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT the Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007 be approved for submission to the Secretary of State.

Reasons

To ensure that the Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007 is submitted to the Secretary of State in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Considerations

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced new provisions and requirements for development planning including the regular review and monitoring of development plans through mandatory Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR's). AMR's are based on a period running from 1st April to 31st March and submitted to the Secretary of State no later than the following 31st December.
2. In establishing the content of this AMR, the aim has been to continue with the methodology set out last year to maintain consistency with the guidance provided in the then ODPM publication 'Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide', which outlines an *objectives-policies-targets-indicators* approach to the monitoring of development plan documents. Improvements have been made in line with subsequent requests from government and examples of best practice have been implemented where appropriate.
3. The AMR largely follows the thematic division of the chapters in the UDP. It is divided into core subjects such as housing, employment, retail etc, for which there is available monitoring data. Objectives for each topic areas are identified and appropriate policies linked to these are set out. Where the UDP expresses a specific requirement to be met, this is identified as a target against which progress can be

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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measured.

4. Throughout the Report there are sections of analysis, which interpret the monitoring results and provide additional comments on areas where data is currently lacking or where future monitoring could be enhanced to improve measurements of policy implementation.
5. The key findings of the AMR in respect of the topic areas are provided in an executive summary on page 3 of the report. Although the monitoring results provide useful data for an annual assessment to be made, in many instances it has only been possible to produce information on trends since 2004. This is not yet a long enough timescale to draw conclusive findings with enough certainty, particularly since the UDP was only adopted in March 2007.
6. The monitoring results do provide useful data for an annual assessment to be made, however it is not a large enough sample to draw conclusive findings. Over time the preparation of the AMR will enable more accurate assessments to be made, which will be used to develop future planning policies. However, in respect of housing and employment detailed monitoring has been undertaken over many years and clear trends in both topic areas are apparent.

Key Findings

7. Housing – between 01-02 and 04-05 completions were below the rate anticipated. However recent releases of some UDP sites has resulted in an increase in the rate of housing completions in the County with 840 dwellings being completed in 2006-7. The *percentage* and number of housing completions on previously developed land (brownfield) has increased on 05-06 figures with 644 brownfield completions representing 77% of all housing completions for the year, exceeding both regional and national targets. In terms of affordable housing, 120 units were completed in 06/07, an increase over the previous year (114 units). Moreover, the number of planning permissions for affordable housing and the fact that several of the larger UDP sites are now coming forward suggests that the rate of completions is likely to increase. In addition, the preparation of the Local Development Framework will provide an opportunity to review the effectiveness of the UDP affordable housing policies.
8. Employment - The amount of land developed for employment uses over the monitoring period was 24.58ha, significantly more than the annual County average of 6ha per annum that has been recorded since the mid 1980's. Around 65% of the completions in the year were located on previously developed (brownfield) land.
9. In the remaining areas of transport, town centres and retail, recreation and leisure, minerals, waste, development requirements, natural historic heritage and renewable energy, findings generally show that targets are being met or there has been progress towards meeting targets or monitoring requirements during the 06-07 monitoring period.

Financial implications

The Annual Monitoring Report is prepared and produced using existing budgets with no direct financial implications.

Risk Management

The production of an Annual Monitoring Report and its submission to the Secretary of State is a statutory requirement.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options as preparation and submission of the Annual Monitoring Report is a statutory requirement.

Consultees

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007

Background Papers

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
- Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks