

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio
Holder Meeting

25 January 2012

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager (Planning & New Communities)

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2010-2011

Purpose

1. To agree the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report for publication on the Council's website and for submission to the Secretary of State.
2. This is not a key decision but raises matters relating to the district as a whole and is a document the Council is required to prepare. It was first published in the May 2011 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. That the Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder:
 - AGREES the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report (included as Appendix 2) for publication and submission to the Secretary of State; and
 - DELEGATES any further minor editing changes to the Annual Monitoring Report to the Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities) where they are technical matters.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Local planning authorities are required to publish information that monitors progress on the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents, and that this should be done at least on an annual basis.

Background

5. Monitoring is essential to establish what has been happening in the district, what is happening now, what may happen in the future and what needs to be done to achieve policies and targets.
6. The Annual Monitoring Report reviews progress on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and also includes over 90 indicators to measure the performance of the Council's adopted planning policies and over 45 indicators to measure the objectives set out in the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

7. This is the seventh Annual Monitoring Report produced by the Council and covers the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Considerations

Progress against the Local Development Scheme

8. It was the Council's intention at the time of producing the Local Development Scheme (LDS) applying during the monitoring period (approved in March 2010) to prepare a specific Gypsy & Traveller DPD and to undertake a review of the Core Strategy. With the change of Government and early signalling that it intended making significant changes to the planning system, preparation of both of these documents slowed as the Council considered the implications of the Government's proposed changes to the plan-making system. A revised LDS in March 2011 proposed a South Cambridgeshire Local Plan incorporating a review of the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies DPD and the Site Specific Policies DPD and still provided for a separate Gypsy and Traveller DPD.
9. A separate report on this agenda proposes a revised Local Development Scheme 2012. The Scheme is for a single South Cambridgeshire Local Plan that also now incorporates policies and proposals to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, as there is no longer any advantage in progressing a separate DPD. Any changes to the recommendation included in the LDS report will need to be reflected in the Annual Monitoring Report before it is published.
10. The Health Impact Assessment SPD, Fen Drayton Former Land Settlement Association Estate SPD and Orchard Park Design Guidance SPD have all been adopted.
11. The Planning Obligations SPD, Papworth Everard West Central SPD, Historic Landscape, Parks and Gardens SPD, and Dwellings Associated with Rural Enterprises SPD will no longer be prepared due to resource limitations and any future need will be considered through the Local Plan review.

Monitoring the Local Development Framework policies and Sustainability Appraisal objectives

12. The key message from the Annual Monitoring Report 2010-2011 is the prolonged impact of the downturn in the economy on the rate of development. The Executive Summary outlines the headline results from the Annual Monitoring Report, and is attached as Appendix 1.
13. The AMR incorporates the housing trajectory and approach to demonstrating a 5-year housing land supply that were agreed at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 24 November 2011. This responded to the finding that the Council has a technical shortfall in 5-year supply against the Core Strategy target to 2016 and concluded that an alternative approach is more appropriate pending the preparation of the new South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. In summary, this shows that against the draft East of England Plan >2031 target, which the Council considers is the most appropriate for

monitoring housing land supply against pending the review of the Core Strategy target, the Council has a 5.3 year supply.

14. The analysis from the Annual Monitoring Report of a wide range of planning policy issues will inform the preparation of the new Local Plan. The monitoring of the performance of the Council's planning policies has shown that development granted planning permission in the district is generally in accordance, or moving towards accordance, with the adopted planning policies. For some indicators, the data shows a period of transition between the adopted planning policies included in the Local Plan 2004 and those included in the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD, both adopted in 2007. It also identifies some area for review through the new Local Plan, and these will be explored in the Issues and Options consultation in the summer.

Options

15. It is a legal requirement that the Council publish its Annual Monitoring Report, and that it monitors progress on the implementation of its Local Development Scheme and the performance of the planning policies included in its development plan documents.

Implications

16. Financial	None arising from the Annual Monitoring Report.
Legal	Local planning authorities are required to publish information monitoring progress on the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents, and that this should be done at least on an annual basis.
Staffing	The Annual Monitoring Report has been prepared within existing staff resources.
Risk Management	It is a legal requirement to publish an Annual Monitoring Report.
Equality and Diversity	The Annual Monitoring Report does not identify any implications for equality and diversity.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	No. The Annual Monitoring Report is used to monitor the implementation of the Council's planning policies and provide information on their impact, it is not a policy or project that can be assessed.
Climate Change	The effects of the Council's planning policies on climate change are assessed in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Consultations

17. The housing trajectory included in the Annual Monitoring Report has been produced in consultation with the various landowners, developers and agents responsible for the sites included in it. Council officers and external organisations have provided information and data for the indicators included in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Consultation with Children and Young People

18. None, the Annual Monitoring Report is a technical assessment of the Council's progress on preparing its planning policy documents and the performance of the Council's adopted planning policies.

Effect on Strategic Aims

19. **Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.** The Annual Monitoring Report provides information on the Council's performance against its planning policies; these policies aim to provide services accessible to all.
20. **Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.** The Annual Monitoring Report provides information on significant effect indicators, which are based on the objectives set out in the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and look at the wider effects of the LDF on the district. The significant effect indicators related to the provision of healthy and inclusive communities include information on health, recreation, crime and harmony in the district.
21. **Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.** The LDF aims to satisfy the development needs of the Cambridge Sub Region while preserving and enhancing its rich built and natural heritage and distinctive character and providing quality places where people are happy to live, work and play. The Annual Monitoring Report provides detailed analysis on how the Council's adopted planning policies have performed.
22. **Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.** The Annual Monitoring Report provides detailed analysis on how the Council's adopted planning policies have performed. The Annual Monitoring Report includes a number of indicators related to the Council's planning policies on employment.
23. **Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.** The Annual Monitoring Report provides information to its local community on the Council's performance against its planning policies.

Conclusions / Summary

24. Progress on preparing the Development Plan Documents identified in the Local Development Scheme slowed down as the Council considered the implications of the Government's proposed changes to the plan-making system. The Council has now reviewed its approach and a single South Cambridgeshire Local Plan is now being prepared. A revised Local Development Scheme is being considered in a separate report on this agenda.
25. The key message from the Annual Monitoring Report 2010-2011 is the prolonged impact of the downturn in the economy on the rate of development. However, the monitoring of the performance of the Council's planning policies has shown that development granted planning permission in the district is generally in accordance, or

moving towards accordance, with the adopted planning policies. The AMR also identifies some area for review through the new Local Plan, and these will be explored in the Issues and Options consultation in the summer.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework: www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf

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