



**Report To:** Planning Portfolio Holder  
**Lead Officer:** Planning and New Communities Director

12 January 2016

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## **Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015**

### **Purpose**

1. To approve the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015 for publication on the Council's website.
2. This is not a key decision but raises matters relating to communities living or working in the district and is a document the Council is required to prepare.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that the Planning Portfolio Holder:
  - (a) approves the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015 (included as Appendix 2) for publication; and
  - (b) delegates any further minor editing changes to the Annual Monitoring Report to the Director of Planning and New Communities where they are technical matters.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. Local planning authorities are required to publish information monitoring progress of the implementation of their Local Development Scheme and planning policies included in their development plan documents at least on an annual basis. The Annual Monitoring Report is also required to give details of what action the Council has taken relating to the duty to co-operate, details of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans made, and once the Council has an adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, information relating to the collection and spending of CIL monies.

### **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. This is the eleventh Annual Monitoring Report produced by the Council and covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. The Annual Monitoring Report includes indicators to measure the performance of the Council's adopted planning policies, and also to measure change in the district against the objectives set out in

the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports and to look at the wider effects of its planning policies on the district. The Annual Monitoring Report also includes details on the action the Council has taken relating to the Duty to Co-operate and of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans made.

### **Considerations**

7. Chapter 2 of the Annual Monitoring Report sets out the key results from the data collected, and provides a commentary as an overview to the detailed monitoring of indicators in the Annual Monitoring Report. It is attached as Appendix 1. The headlines from Appendix 1 are set out in the following paragraphs.

#### *Progress against the Local Development Scheme*

8. The Council submitted its Local Plan, alongside the Cambridge Local Plan, to the Secretary of State on 28 March 2014. Joint examination hearing sessions were held between November 2014 and April 2015 on strategic issues, including housing and employment needs, development strategy, Green Belt, transport, infrastructure and housing supply. The Inspectors wrote to the Councils in May 2015 in relation to three main issues and invited the Councils to undertake additional work to address those issues before the examinations progressed further. The Councils agreed to undertake additional work and the examinations have been formally suspended until March 2016.
9. Public consultation is being carried out in December 2015 to January 2016 (jointly with Cambridge City Council) on the proposed modifications identified from the additional work undertaken. The suspension of the examination to allow for the further work and public consultation to be undertaken means that progress on the Local Plan is taking longer than originally anticipated. A revised timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan is set out in an addendum to the Local Development Scheme agreed in November 2015.
10. The Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan is being prepared jointly with Cambridge City Council. The Councils undertook public consultation on issues and options between December 2014 and February 2015, which is consistent with the Local Development Scheme. A report setting out the results of the consultation and the proposed way forward to proposed submission was considered by the relevant members of both Councils in November 2015. A revised timetable for the preparation of this Area Action Plan is set out in an addendum to the Local Development Scheme agreed in November 2015. The revised timetable anticipates that public consultation on proposed submission will be undertaken in January - March 2017, and submission to the Secretary of State for examination will be in June 2017.

#### *Details of Neighbourhood Development Orders and Neighbourhood Development Plans Made*

11. There was initially limited interest shown by Parish Councils in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, as the Council had offered them the opportunity to put forward proposals within their area through the Local Plan process as an alternative to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. Since the Local Plan was submitted for

examination there has been a steady increase in interest from Parish Councils considering preparing Neighbourhood Plans for their areas.

12. There are currently seven designated neighbourhood areas in South Cambridgeshire, of which the first three at Linton and Hildersham, Histon & Impington and Gamlingay were designated in the last monitoring year. Four further areas have been designated since the end of the monitoring year at Waterbeach, Cottenham, Foxton and West Wickham.
13. Initial discussions have taken place with an increasing number of other Parish Councils about neighbourhood planning and whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be the right tool for them to achieve the aspirations they have for the future in their villages. The Council is considering options and resources for providing further support to Parish Councils undertaking Neighbourhood Plans.

*Monitoring the Local Development Framework policies and Sustainability Appraisal objectives*

14. 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 with the adopted planning policies.
15. **Housing completions:** in 2014-2015, a total of 869 net additional dwellings were completed in South Cambridgeshire; this is 165 dwellings more than the number predicted in the housing trajectory included in last year's Annual Monitoring Report. This is also an increase on the previous six monitoring years, where annual net housing completions were consistently around 600 dwellings reflecting the slowdown in the housing market and that the fringe sites coming forward were building out on the Cambridge side of the administrative boundary. The increase in completions in the last monitoring year is due to an increase in completions at Cambourne and Orchard Park; on the historic rural allocation at Papworth Everard, which is nearing completion; and on large windfall sites, and as a result of the first 29 dwellings in South Cambridgeshire being completed at Trumpington Meadows.
16. **Housing quality:** Twelve developments completed in 2014-2015 have been assessed against the Building for Life standard. Of these, four developments at Cambourne, Longstanton and Trumpington Meadows are eligible to be put forward for 'Built for Life' accreditation as they have scored 9 or more 'greens' out of a possible total of 12 'greens'. Taking all 12 developments together, the assessments show that nearly half of the criteria were scored as 'green' as they have been successfully met, and less than 10% were scored as 'red' as they had not been complied with.
17. **Business floorspace completions:** in 2014-2015 there has been a significant increase in business floorspace completed, compared to the previous five monitoring years. This is due to the completion of over 21,000 sqm of new floorspace as part of the redevelopment of TWI at Granta Park (Great Abington), which replaces nearly 13,000 sqm of floorspace demolished in the previous year. The continued success of policies supporting research and development, hi tech and biotech industries in the district can be seen in the net increase of over 204,000 sqm of B1b (research &

development) use completed in the last 16 years, largely at research parks such as Granta Park (Great Abington), Cambridge Research Park (Landbeach) and the Wellcome Institute (Hinxton).

### **Options**

18. It is a legal requirement that the Council publishes an Annual Monitoring Report.

### **Implications**

19. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

#### ***Legal and Risk Management***

20. 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 at least on an annual basis.

### **Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)**

21. 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.
22. The Youth Council has not been consulted as 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**

#### **Aim 1: We will engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure we deliver first class services and value for money.**

23. The Annual Monitoring Report provides information on the Council's performance against its planning policies; these policies aim to provide successful, vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities.

#### **Aim 2: We will work with partners to create opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world-leading innovation.**

24. The Annual Monitoring Report provides detailed analysis on how the Council's adopted planning policies have performed, and includes a number of indicators related to the Council's planning policies on employment and the wider effects of the LDF on the district including its economy.

#### **Aim 3: We will ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents.**

25. The LDF aims to satisfy the development needs of the area 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.

## **Background Papers**

South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/local-development-framework>

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (submitted in March 2014):

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Modifications Consultation Report:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplanmods-dec2015>

National Planning Policy Framework:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

National Planning Practice Guidance:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

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