

# **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021-31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

## **Planning Policy Committee – 24 November 2022**

Report of: Interim Chief Planning Officer

Purpose: For decision

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

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### **Executive summary:**

The Council has prepared an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in accordance with Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011.

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### **This report supports the Council's priority of:**

Monitoring the effectiveness of our planning policies and procedures.

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### **Recommendation to Committee:**

It is recommended that:-

- A. the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (Appendix A - provided as a separate document) be approved for inclusion in the emerging local plan evidence base and to be made available for public and stakeholder scrutiny on the Council's website; and
- B. future AMRs be reported to the Planning Policy Committee prior to publication.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

The requirement for a local authority to produce an annual Authority Monitoring Report (an AMR) is set out in Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011.

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## **Introduction and background**

1. The Localism Act 2011 requires every local planning authority to produce a series of reports containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme, the progress and effectiveness of the Local Plan, and the extent to which the planning policies set out in the Local Plan documents are being achieved.
2. Monitoring and reporting on current planning policies tells communities and stakeholders how the Council's planning function is performing.
3. The Monitoring Report is a good way to gather evidence on the effectiveness of existing policies, for future policy making, and supporting development management decisions. It identifies areas where objectives aren't being met and where changes to policy or development management may be necessary.
4. Good monitoring and reporting will assist councillors in their scrutiny function. It will also be a useful tool for neighbourhood planning – encouraging communities to engage in future policy making and helping them understand where neighbourhood plans 'sit' in the whole context of the development plan in the District.
5. The last annual Authority Monitoring Report was for 2020/21 and this report now provides an update for 2021/22.
6. The preparation and publication of the AMR within the Council has for many years been delegated to Officers but going forward the report will be reported to this Committee for adoption prior to publication.

## **Key implications**

### **Comments of the Chief Finance Officer**

There are no direct financial implications of this report. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the recommendations.

### **Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

Since the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the requirement to monitor has evolved with the Localism Act 2011 and subsequent Town and Country Planning Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012, setting out the current requirement. The requirement to prepare and publish an Authority Monitoring Report replaces the previous duty, in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2004, for local authorities to produce an Annual Monitoring Report which had to be submitted directly to the Secretary of State. However, there is still a minimum requirement to annually produce an Authority Monitoring Report, which, in the interests of transparency, should be made publicly available and

updated as and when the information becomes available.

Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 therefore sets out the basic information that AMRs must contain, although local authorities have discretion to include any other useful information relating to planning policy preparation and performance. These are summarised as:

- Reporting progress in the preparation and adoption of local plans (development plan documents) and supplementary planning documents against the milestones set out in the Council's local development scheme (LDS)
- Identifying progress in the delivery, both in the reporting period and cumulatively, of local plan policies that set specific targets for the number of net additional dwellings (or affordable dwellings);
- Setting out monitoring information, where available, used to assess the effectiveness of other local plan policies;
- Reporting any local plan policies that are not being implemented along with the reasons for non-implementation;
- Providing details of neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders that have been made;
- Detailing any activities or actions related to the statutory duty to cooperate; and
- Where a community infrastructure levy (CIL) has been introduced, information relating to the operation of the levy, as specified in separate CIL regulations.

The content of the Council's AMR fulfils this duty.

## **Equality**

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal, the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

## **Climate change**

There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022 (separate document provided)