

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 8 December 2014
3.	Title:	Annual Monitoring Report 2014
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The Council is required to produce a publicly available Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Plan. Submission to Government is no longer required but the draft 2014 Annual Monitoring Report is now ready for general publication.

6. Recommendations

- 1. That Cabinet Member approves the publication of the 2014 Annual Monitoring Report.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to be published by the end of each December. This is intended to cover progress in achieving the programme published in the Local Development Scheme together with the monitoring of performance in implementing the policies supporting Rotherham's strategy for spatial development as well as the findings of Sustainability Appraisal monitoring.

Annual Monitoring Reports are required to cover the financial year preceding December publication - this tenth AMR covers the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. It sets out a monitoring framework which is evolving incrementally as the first round of planning documents and policies are prepared and additional ones are brought forward in the future. Accordingly, this tenth AMR builds on some of the initial broad principles to guide the monitoring of the developing Local Plan as well as a selection of performance indicators based on data that is most readily available.

There have been some significant changes from earlier years AMRs as the requirement of reporting on regional and national indicators have been changed or scrapped completely (although a few core indicators do remain). The indicators are now aligned with local priorities and the core policies of the Core Strategy under the seven broad themes of 'Delivering Development in Sustainable Locations', 'Creating Mixed and Attractive Places to Live', 'Supporting a Dynamic Economy', 'Movement and Accessibility', 'Managing the Natural and Historic Environment', 'Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities' and 'Infrastructure'. The indicators reflect the 17 broad objectives and the 34 core policies within the Core Strategy that underpin these aims. This selection of indicators will continue to be supplemented as the Local Plan monitoring framework evolves.

For all the indicators measuring the strategic themes and policies contained in the Core Strategy the performance over the year showed:

- 22 indicators have improved
- 19 indicators have shown no significant change from the baseline or updated data is unavailable
- 13 indicators have declined or are not on target

A breakdown of performance by the six broad themes and headings (excluding infrastructure for which monitoring indicators will be determined as part of the infrastructure delivery plan) is shown within the report.

Good performance / improvements have been seen in:

- A third of completed new builds were on previously developed land.
- Increase in the number of affordable housing units (191 homes).
- Vacancy rates on industrial and commercial property located on the main industrial parks of Rotherham have decreased for the third consecutive year.
- New business registration rate increases for the second consecutive year.
- Public transport usage increase on previous year.
- Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) improving.

- Number / capacity of renewable energy generation schemes granted approval increased again.

Poor performance / decline in:

- Slight increase on 2012/13 but number of dwellings built continues to be below target despite a continuing high level of permissions.
- Percentage built within the Rotherham Urban area below Core Strategy target.
- Vacancy rate on the primary shopping streets in Rotherham town centre has increased (by 3 'units' to 15.5%).
- One additional listed building now 'at risk' according to English Heritage.
- Household waste recycling rates have fallen for the second consecutive year.

There are a number of key projects which, due to their large scale and potential impact, are mentioned in more detail within the report.

Waverley

Planning permission has been granted for a sustainable mixed use community with significant housing provision at the former open-cast mining site at Waverley (a major previously developed site), and development has begun on phase 1 of the scheme. The planning permission includes 3,890 new dwellings, of which it is estimated that 2,500 will be delivered in the Plan period to 2028. To date around 200 new dwellings have been completed on site.

Rotherham Town Centre

The vacant sites resulting from the relocation of Council offices will present future redevelopment opportunities. Construction is complete of a new Tesco store which has seen the operator relocate from their previous site at Forge Island to the Council's former civic area at Walker Place. The new store began trading in November 2014. Phase 1 of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme has been completed, including a new wetland area at Centenary Riverside in Templeborough, with Phase 2 expected to be delivered incrementally as development comes forward and funding from other sources becomes available.

Bassingthorpe Farm

The Bassingthorpe Farm urban extension was identified as a broad location for growth in the submission Core Strategy. At the Examination of the Core Strategy the Inspector was satisfied that the detailed evidence supporting the future development of Bassingthorpe Farm was sufficient that the site could be formalised as a strategic allocation. This is what he subsequently recommended in his final report.

Following the Inspector's decision, Bassingthorpe Farm can come forward before other sites in the Sites & Policies document, providing a sustainable urban extension for the wider Rotherham Urban Area. In total, the development will provide around 2,400 new homes with 1,700 homes being delivered in this Plan period (up to 2028). The development will also provide around 11 hectares of land for employment together with associated infrastructure requirements.

The draft 2014 Annual Monitoring Report will be made available electronically prior to the meeting.

8. Finance

There are no direct implications arising from this report. The AMR is published electronically with hard copies provided at reasonable cost if requested.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report (Dec 2014)

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