

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 14 JULY 2016
LOCAL PLAN MONITORING REPORT
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIC HOUSING
(Contact: Chris Hargraves, Tel: (01993) 861686)

The report is for information.

1. PURPOSE

To consider the Council's Local Plan monitoring report covering the two-year period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the content of the Local Plan monitoring report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Although no longer required to submit an annual report to Government, local authorities are still required under current legislation to regularly report to local communities on the following matters:
- Progress of the Local Plan and any other related documents against agreed timetables;
 - Implementation of Local Plan policies;
 - Neighbourhood Planning;
 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) where this has been introduced; and
 - How the Council has fulfilled its obligations under the 'duty to co-operate'
- 3.2. This information should be made freely available on the Council's website, at its main offices and any other appropriate locations.
- 3.3. Attached at Appendix I is a copy of the most recent Local Plan monitoring report for West Oxfordshire. Members should note that it covers the two-year period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2016 which is longer than the typical 12 month reporting period.
- 3.4. This is because the Council did not produce a monitoring report during 2015 due to the resource constraints associated with the submission and examination of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1. The latest monitoring report is attached in full at Appendix I and includes an executive summary for ease of reference. Members should note that the format and structure of the monitoring report is different from those published previously.
- 4.2. In particular in reporting on the implementation of Local Plan policies, the report now follows the structure of the emerging Local Plan more closely to allow for a clearer understanding of the extent to which policies are being achieved or not.
- 4.3. A number of new indicators have been included which are drawn from the submission draft Local Plan. Members will note that in some instances, proposed indicators are still in the process of being developed or information is not yet available and cannot therefore be reported on at the current time.
- 4.4. The report should therefore be viewed as somewhat of a 'work in progress' with the next version (covering 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017) to include a more comprehensive set of data.
- 4.5. Notwithstanding the presence of some gaps in the reporting data, Officers consider that the revised format of the report is much improved and provides a solid basis for reporting in future years.
- 4.6. In terms of housing, key statistics reported on include dwelling completions and permissions by type and location, average density of development, proportion of development on previously developed (brownfield) land, affordable housing delivery and the type and mix of homes provided.
- 4.7. Members should note that the report does not include any information or commentary on the Council's 5-year housing land supply position. This is because work is ongoing on both the housing requirement and additional site allocations. An updated housing land supply position statement will therefore be published separately later in the year.
- 4.8. Members should also note that the housing completion figure for 2015/16 is currently being double checked and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.
- 4.9. In terms of the economy, key statistics reported on include new business formation, permitted and completed employment and retail floorspace, percentage of superfast broadband coverage and the provision and loss of town centre uses.
- 4.10. In line with the structure of the emerging Local Plan, further data is provided in relation to transport and environmental and heritage assets. A separate annex is provided including key biodiversity statistics.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. The monitoring report attached at Appendix I will be made available on the Council's website, at its main offices and at other appropriate locations throughout the District.

6. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

- 6.1. None applicable.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

8. RISKS

- 8.1. There are no risks associated with the report.

9. REASONS

- 9.1. There is a legislative requirement to report on the Local Plan and other related matters.

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Date: 28 June 2016

Background Papers:

None