

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 16th April 2013
Report of: Head of Strategic Planning and Housing
Subject/Title: Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12
Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings in the Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12. The Annual Monitoring Report shows the progress with the preparation of the Local Plan and reviews the Local Development Scheme and considers how the policies set out in the development plan were delivered during the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities
- a) Consider any recommendations from the Strategic Planning Board on 13th March 2013; and
 - b) Approve for publication the Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Planning authorities are required to monitor and publish monitoring reports covering the progress in the preparation of their Local Plan and the effectiveness of their planning policies.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The report contains statistical evidence on the performance of existing development plan policies which will be crucial in the formulation and

process of policy making and implementation of the Local Plan.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

7.1 There will be no costs involved with the publication of the Annual Monitoring Report; it will be published on the Council's website only.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, every planning authority must prepare reports containing prescribed information regarding:

- a) Implementation of the Local Development Scheme and
- b) The extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents are being achieved is a statutory requirement imposed by s35 Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 The Local Development Scheme is being revised to ensure that sufficient time is included in the timetable to enable members to give full consideration to the proposals to be included in the draft Local Plan. The Local Development Scheme sets out the risks associated with the preparation of the Local Plan.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 This is the fourth Annual Monitoring Report for Cheshire East Council. Every local planning authority has to make an annual report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies set out in local plans are being achieved. The Government has removed the requirement for local planning authorities to submit their annual monitoring report to the Government but has retained the overall duty to monitor. It is now a matter for each council to decide what to include in their monitoring report.

10.2 The Executive Summary to the Annual Monitoring Report is set out in Appendix 1. It gives the extent of development and progress throughout the Borough highlighting the main conclusions from each of the chapters. The full report is available on the Council's web site:
http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/annual_monitoring_report.aspx

10.3 The current Local Development Scheme came into effect on April 30th 2012 and covers the period 2012/14, setting out the key milestones, identifying target dates for the various stages of each document. In the last year, the council have been continuing to put together the evidence base Compilation of evidence base for the Core Strategy

- Town Strategies Consultations

- Open Space Assessment completed
- Employment Land Review completed
- Development Strategy and Emerging Policy Principles completed

The key milestones set for 2011/12 have been met. A separate report will consider the revisions to the Local Development Scheme and review the timetable.

- 10.4 The national economic position is having an effect on development in Cheshire East in terms of the amount of new development for housing, employment, town centre and other shopping developments and also on the amount of mineral extraction.
- 10.5 For the first time in four years the number of housing completions in Cheshire East has risen from 466 to 534 (net)
- 10.6 The Government requires all planning authorities to be able to demonstrate a five year supply of land available for new housing development. The Cheshire East SHLAA Feb 2013 Update (base date 31st March 2012) shows that Cheshire East has a 7.5 year supply of homes on 'deliverable sites' within the period 1-5 years. Incorporating the 5% buffer this becomes 7.15 years.
- 10.7 Employment floor space completions were 33,353 sqm gross. This was an increase from 10,600 sqm gross in the previous monitoring period. Unemployment rates remain below the regional level at 6.1%. Employment Land Supply is 328 ha. This is an increase from last year's figure of 296 ha.
- 10.8 Cheshire East's visitor economy is estimated to be worth £608 million. Visitor numbers have increased to nearly 12 million, with tourists spending 5% more than the previous year. Cheshire East's Visitor Economy Strategy continues to set ambitious targets for growth in this sector, including a target to increase Tatton Park visitor numbers to 1 million by 2015.
- 10.9 Progress continues on protecting and conserving our Built and Natural Heritage. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is now complete and the Open Space Strategy was published in March 2012. Air Quality Management Areas are showing improvements and initiatives to protect heritage crime incidents have been created.
- 10.10 Aggregate production across Cheshire increased by about 10% on the previous year from approx. 0.9 to 1 million tonnes. This reflects a slight upturn in construction activity. There has been a decline in the overall household waste arisings. 52.9% of waste is now recycling/ composted an increase from 50% in 2010/11. Recycling rates have risen in 2011/12 following the implementation "sorted in one" silver bin kerbside recycling scheme across the Borough.
- 10.11 It is imperative that the Council continue this monitoring as monitoring provides a crucial method for feedback, highlighting where adjustments and revisions are necessary. The information forms evidence for the development

of policies for the Local Plan process. With the withdrawal of the government requirement, it is up to each Council to decide what will be included in future annual reports. This Council will continue to monitor on a more focussed list of indicators that link to either corporate performance measures or key planning policies.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Executive Summary