

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Planning Services

Author: Richard Sandith

Telephone: 01235 422600

Textphone: 018001 01235 422600

E-mail: Richard.Sandith@southandvale.gov.uk

Cabinet member responsible: Cllr. Anne-Marie Simpson

Tel: 01491 651298

E-mail: Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk

To: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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AGENDA ITEM

Authority Monitoring Report

Recommendation

(a) To consider the Authority Monitoring Report and provide feedback to the Cabinet Member for Planning

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members on the progress of the Local Plan preparation and assesses the effectiveness of the policies and objectives contained in the Core Strategy, as well as reporting on a number of other statutory requirements.

Strategic Objectives

2. The delivery of the South Oxfordshire Authority Monitoring Report monitors the effectiveness of planning policy in meeting the Council's six strategic objectives.
3. The Authority Monitoring Report measures the Core Strategy which sets out the level and distribution of development to 2027, which will help to shape the future of South Oxfordshire, realises the potential of Didcot and identifies sufficient homes and employment land.

Background

4. The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 require all local authorities to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

5. The Authority Monitoring Report attached (Appendix 1) is produced annually and sets out the Council's progress on Local Plan preparation and assesses the effectiveness of the policies and objectives contained in the Core Strategy, as well as reporting on a number of other statutory requirements.
6. The AMR provides data and statistics in line with the indicators in the adopted Core Strategy 2012, for the 2018/19 monitoring year. The key areas are;
 - Housing- The AMR shows that housing delivery for 2018/19 was above the Local Housing Need, and that there was a strong housing land supply position of 9.75 years, though this position will change in accordance with progress of the emerging Local Plan 2035.
 - Employment- Permissions granted during 2018/19 could lead to a loss of office space, however permissions have been granted for an increase in storage uses.
 - Retail and Facilities- Permissions granted show that permissions relating to retail and services have largely been granted in the town centres, in line with planning policy.
7. In addition to monitoring the progress of the emerging and adopted Local Plans, the AMR provides an update on:
 - The Local Development Scheme
 - Neighbourhood Development Plans
 - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
 - The Duty to Cooperate
8. The AMR will monitor against the policies and indicators set out in the emerging Local Plan 2035 in due course, with some statistics provided in this AMR structured in accordance with emerging plan period to assist with future reports.

Financial Implications

9. The preparation of the Authority Monitoring Report is undertaken by officers within the Planning Policy team and is supported by an extensive evidence base. The activities of this team are met from the existing Planning Policy budget.

Legal Implications

10. Local authorities are required to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report. The Town and Country Planning Regulation 2012 provides full details on the information that should be contained in the Authority Monitoring Report and this frames the way in which our report is produced.

Risks

11. Failure to progress an Authority Monitoring Report weakens the transparency of our performance against Local Plan policies.

Other Implications

12. None known.

Conclusion

13. The Council's Authority Monitoring Report provides an overview of the Local Plan's progress on an annual basis against which performance can be assessed.

14. Overall, current planning policies in the Core Strategy are effective in delivering the Council's Strategic Objectives and the Plan's objectives.

15. Any comments on the AMR are welcomed by the Cabinet Member for Planning.

Appendix 1; Authority Monitoring Report 2018/19