

# Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Planning Services

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To: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 28 March 2019

## Authority Monitoring Report 2017/18

### RECOMMENDATION

To consider the Authority Monitoring Report and provide feedback to the Cabinet Member for planning.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the progress for new development measured against the adopted Local Plan policies.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2. The production of the Vale of White Horse District Council's Monitoring Report provides evidence on the success of local plan planning policies that help to meet a number of the council's strategic objectives.
3. The Authority Monitoring Report measures the planning objectives set out in the Local Plan which include the level and distribution of development to 2031. The Local Plan will help to shape the future of the district, help to realise the potential of Science Vale and identifies sufficient homes and employment land to meet needs.

### BACKGROUND

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

## SUMMARY

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 Local Plan Part One, 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 Local Plan Part One, for the 2017/18 monitoring year. The key areas are:
  - a. Housing - the AMR shows that housing delivery for 2017/18 was above the adopted housing requirement for the district, as well as meeting the targets for each sub-area. The district can currently demonstrate a strong district wide housing land supply of 6.8 years. However, this position will be updated in April/May 2019. The Housing Delivery Test results were released recently by Government, with the Vale of White Horse achieving a very positive result.
  - b. Employment - reasonable progress is being made towards achieving the Local Plan target of delivering 218 hectares of employment land in the district. Over the plan period so far 64.91 hectares of employment has been permitted on allocated sites, with 4.95 hectares being permitted in 2017/18. The majority of this employment land has been permitted in the South East Vale sub-area, in accordance with the strategy of supporting the growth of the Science Vale.
  - c. Infrastructure - In 2017/18 the Harwell Link road, which is part of an infrastructure package to improve access to the Enterprise Zone, was completed and opened. Several key infrastructure projects to support growth have now been completed in the district.
7. The AMR shows that development in the district is largely taking place in accordance with the development plan and the policies set out in the Local Plan Part One. There has been some speculative development which took place in the period when the district was suffering from a lack of five-year housing land supply. The AMR will monitor against the policies and indicators set out in the Local Plan Part Two once this has been adopted.
8. In addition to monitoring the progress of the emerging and adopted Local Plans, the AMR provides an update on:
  - a) The Local Development Scheme
  - b) Neighbourhood Development Plans
  - c) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
  - d) The Duty to Cooperate

## **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 Regulations 2012 provide 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.

## **CONCLUSION**

12. 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.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13. Authority Monitoring Report 2017-18 (Published December 2018)