

# Authority's Monitoring Report 2021-2022

## Recommended:

**That OSCOM notes and endorses Test Valley Borough Council's Authority Monitoring Report for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (Annex 1 to the report).**

### **SUMMARY:**

- This report considers the findings from this year's annual Authority Monitoring Report 2021/22. Since the end of March 2022, there have been further developments within the Borough. Therefore the document also includes summary updates where appropriate on relevant planning policy documents and data that have occurred between 1 April 2022 and 31 October 2022.

There are sections in the document that are highlighted yellow. These are sections with information relating to the Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report published by the Environmental Agency in the first week of December. The data currently in the AMR (highlighted yellow) is the data from last year's report and this will be updated once the report from the EA is published.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the Council's latest Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) (Annex 1 to the report). The AMR reviews the effectiveness of the Council's planning policies and helps us to ensure that progress is being made towards achieving the objectives set out in the Local Plan. The AMR is a statistical document, it is not for the AMR to provide commentary or solutions to issues, but to help guide the direction of travel for future corporate and planning policy.
- 1.2 The AMR reporting year covers the previous financial year, with a requirement to be published by December. There is a delay between publication and the end of the reporting year, due to the period for data collection, as well as waiting on data gathering and reporting from other external bodies. To help keep the information up to date, the AMR also aims to highlight any recent further developments that have happened since the end of the reporting period.
- 1.3 The latest AMR covers the reporting period of the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. This report is the eighteenth monitoring report for the Borough. The latest AMR will be published on the Council's website prior to Christmas.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Authority's Monitoring Report has been prepared in line with section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Local Authorities are no longer required to submit their monitoring reports to the Secretary of State. However, the Council has a duty to continue monitoring and collecting data.
- 2.2 Part 8, Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 sets out the content of what must be covered within an AMR. AMR's are designed to monitor the performance of planning policies on the area in which they apply. The AMR is formed of two elements: a) monitoring the progress of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and b) monitoring the performance of the Local Plan planning policies in the Borough.

## **3 Monitoring of the Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

- 3.1 An updated Local Development Scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 29 September 2021 and was the LDS in place during the reporting year.
- 3.2 The draft Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 1 was published for public consultation in February 2022. This is the third stage in the preparation of the next local plan after two public consultations on our Issues and Options consultation (2018) and Refined Issues and Options Consultation (2020). The public consultation period ran from 11 February – 8 April 2022 and the Council is now considering the responses and preparing for Regulation 18 Stage 2.
- 3.3 An updated Local Development Scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 26 October 2022 and the LDS 2022 document has been published on our website. The next stage Regulation 18 Stage 2 is now timetabled for 2023 Q3.
- 3.4 The Draft New Forest Recreational Mitigation SPD, with the full title of 'New Forest International Nature Conservation Designations: Recreational Mitigation Framework Supplementary Planning Document' was published and a public Consultation period held from 12 November to 10 December 2021. The Council is reviewing the comments received to inform the updating of the document.
- 3.5 The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) document is an important component of the evidence base for the next Test Valley Local Plan. It seeks to identify and assess land which landowners and developers are willing to make available to inform potential future allocations for housing and employment. It also seeks to identify and assess land available with housing and economic potential to inform future allocations for housing and employment. The latest SHELAA was published in November 2021. The Council has also undertaken a call for sites for a new Green Land Availability Assessment (GLAA).

- 3.6 The Council's Corporate Plan 'Investing in Test Valley' 2019-2023 and beyond set an objective of investing in communities. This is being actioned through supporting Parishes to undertake neighbourhood planning and other forms of community planning, and to provide opportunities for communities to work more closely with the Council in the review of the Local Plan. The council has started its preparations for the next corporate plan for 2023- 2027 and conducted a public consultation in Summer 2022.
- 3.7 There are currently 19 designated neighbourhood areas in the Borough. The Borough now has seven 'made' neighbourhood plans: Goodworth Clatford, Thruxton, Upper Clatford, Chilbolton, Charlton, West Dean and West Tytherley and Houghton Neighbourhood Plans, which were all approved following community referenda. There are a further 13 neighbourhood plans that are underway in the Borough.
- 3.8 The Village Design Statement for the Parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant was adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 7 April 2021, following a recommendation from the Council's Cabinet on 10 March 2021.

#### **4 Monitoring the Local Plan**

- 4.1 The Localism Act 2011 enables local authorities to choose what targets and indicators to include in their monitoring, whilst ensuring that they are presented in accordance with relevant UK and 'retained EU law' which is now part of domestic legislation.
- 4.2 The AMR includes three types of indicators: a) Contextual Indicators, which help describe the general context of the local planning authority area e.g. resident population; b) Core Output Indicators, which were those previously identified by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (Now Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLuHC)) and which formerly needed to be reported on by all local planning authorities to give a consistent assessment of the impact of planning policy implementation; and c) Local Output Indicators, which are identified by the Council itself, as they are specific to the local authority to help monitor aspects of local planning policy, not covered by the Core Indicators. These are continued in the current AMR for consistency. The general themes which emerge from the indicators are set out below.
- 4.3 Part Two of the AMR is structured to follow the Local Plan chapters for ease of reference. The general themes which emerge for the indicators are set out below.
- 4.4 To assist with monitoring and identifying long term trends, each target within the AMR will have a 'traffic light' system to indicate how well the Council has done in achieving the target set out. Please see Appendix 1 of the AMR, for the list of all core indicators and the latest performance position.

## 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Borough is continuing to perform well in a number of areas, in context of Output Indicators as shown in Appendix 1 of the AMR.
- 5.2 The AMR will be published on the Council's website prior to Christmas.
- 5.3 The committee are requested to note and endorse the content of the report.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1		
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