

# APPENDIX G

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 7 DECEMBER 2010

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**Title:**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK  
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2009/2010**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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**Summary and purpose:**

This report presents the Draft Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2009/2010 for consideration, prior to its submission to the Government Office of the South East (GOSE.)

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**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

As a factual document the Annual Monitoring Report demonstrates how planning policies are assisting in delivering the Council's Corporate Priorities.

A key consideration of the Annual Monitoring Report is to measure the effects that implementation of planning policies are having on social, environmental and economic sustainability. This relates to its role in demonstrating affordable housing provision, the protection and enhancement of the environment and consideration of the quality of life of all Waverley residents, now and for future generations.

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

**Climate Change Implications:**

There is no adopted Core Strategy policy on climate change to monitor. Therefore there are currently no climate change implications arising from this report.

**Resource/Value for Money Implications:**

New areas of monitoring will have resource implications. It is anticipated at present that these can be absorbed within current resources.

**Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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## **Background**

1. Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every local authority to make an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the Secretary of State, containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies set out in local development documents are being achieved. This sixth AMR, covering the period April 2009 to March 2010, has to be submitted by the end of December 2010.
2. A key objective of the planning system adopted in 2004 is that local development documents will be 'spatial' rather than purely land-use plans delivered through the grant and refusal of planning permission. They need to embrace wider social, environmental and economic objectives. They should also provide a mechanism for delivering sustainable development objectives; considering needs and aspirations of communities; adopting an integrated approach taking account of other strategies and policies; and setting out clear and agreed implementation mechanisms to ensure that spatial objectives and policies are delivered.
3. This spatial approach means that local development documents will need to be based on more comprehensive evidence than development plans were in the past. This is one reason why more robust approaches are now needed towards monitoring the new local development frameworks.

## **Introduction**

4. In this continued transition period from the Waverley Borough Local Plan 2002 to the Local Development Framework (LDF), this sixth Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will continue to report on the policies of the Local Plan, as no new policies have yet been adopted as part of the LDF.
5. Since April 2010, the end of the current AMR reporting period, the Coalition Government has expressed its intentions to make changes to the current planning system. This does have implications on the reporting of some of the forward-looking indicators, such as those dealing with housing. Where appropriate this has been acknowledged within the report.

## **Developing the Monitoring Framework**

6. The limitations of the monitoring systems that support the preparation of the AMR are currently being addressed. Work is ongoing to tailor monitoring systems to be more comprehensive and to make them more focused on forward planning and the LDF.
7. GOSE recognises that the AMR is a document that will evolve over time, and the information contained within it will be modified as the LDF progresses and saved policies are replaced. New local indicators and targets will be introduced. Some information continues to be unavailable at a local level, and therefore some of the core indicators may not be monitored at this stage.

8. Each policy in the emerging Core Strategy will contain reference to how it will be delivered and monitored. The targets and indicators developed, as part of the production of the document will be used to monitor the effectiveness of policies contained in the Strategy, and will be incorporated in the AMR once it has been adopted.

### **Changes to the Monitoring Framework**

9. The Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators, which the Council is required to report on within the AMR, were updated in 2008. The new indicators require additional information and changes in way some data is to be reported. All of these replacement or new indicators are included in this AMR and where data limitations prevent reporting this has been explained.
10. As the Core Strategy is developed it will be necessary to ensure that monitoring systems are in place to measure the effectiveness of the policies adopted.

### **Changes to the Planning System**

11. On the 6 July 2010, the new Government placed an order in Parliament to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) with immediate effect. In a letter to Chief Planning Officers, the Coalition Government has outlined that Local Planning Authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision for their area. As part of this work, the Council has recently consulted the public on some potential options for setting a future housing target.
12. In parallel with considering this AMR, the Council is also considering the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Draft Policies. Subject to approval by the Council, it is proposed that the Preferred Options and Draft Policies will be subject to consultation in the New Year. That document includes a local housing target and it is this target that has been used in the AMR to assess the five-year housing supply and as the basis for the housing trajectory.
13. The revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies was challenged in the high court by developer Cala Homes and the decision, announced 10 November 2010, concluded that Section 79 powers could not be used to revoke all Regional Spatial Strategies in their entirety. However, it is clear from statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that the Governments intentions have not changed. The Government will be introducing the Localism Bill to Parliament, later in November, which it says will remove all Regional Strategies, including regional housing targets.
14. Due to the large size of the document, individual copies of the Annual Monitoring Report have not been distributed. Copies are however available for inspection in the Members' Room, and individual copies are available upon request using the contact details at the end of this report. The document will also be available on the website.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. the Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10 be noted; and
2. the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to add the relevant data on housing supply prior to the submission of the AMR in December 2010.

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## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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