



Executive Committee

No specific ward relevance

9th December 2009

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 1ST APRIL 2008 – 31ST MARCH 2009

(Report of the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control)

1. Summary of Proposals

The Committee's endorsement is sought to submit the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2008 - 2009 to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) by the 31st December 2009 and to publish the document. Being a factual monitoring document, endorsement is also sought for Officers to submit the AMR annually in the future, subject to there being no issues highlighted from monitoring.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) the Annual Monitoring Report 2008/09 (as attached at Appendix A to the report) be approved for submission to the Government Office for the West Midlands and for subsequent publication; and**
- 2) from the 2009/10 Annual Monitoring Report period onwards, Officers submit the Annual Monitoring Report subject to there being no indications that policies need to be reviewed.**

3. Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability Implications

Financial

- 3.1 The cost of producing the AMR 2008/09 has been met from within existing budgets and its publication can also be met from within existing budgets.

Legal

- 3.2 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires all local authorities to prepare an AMR annually. This AMR must therefore be submitted to GOWM by the 31st December 2009. The requirements of the AMR are set out in Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Policy

- 3.3 Once adopted, the AMR 2008 - 2009 (in Appendix A of this document) will form part of the Local Development Framework.

Risk

- 3.4 If policies in Local Development Documents are not monitored effectively in the AMR, there could be a risk that potential problems with the implementation of policies which would not be picked up.

Sustainability / Environmental

- 3.5 The AMR contributes to sustainability by monitoring those policies which are designed to contribute to sustainability, where the AMR identifies this is not the case, analysis of the monitoring can be undertaken to ensure that in the future policy development is more effective.

Report

4. Background

- 4.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires each local planning authority to submit an AMR to the Secretary of State. This AMR is the fifth AMR to be prepared by Redditch Borough Council under the 2004 Act. The AMR monitors the period the 1st of April 2008 to the 31st of March 2009. The AMR must contain information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
- 4.2 The AMR is a crucial part of the “feedback loop” within the cyclical process of policy-making. The AMR provides information on the performance of policy and its surrounding environment, taking a future-orientated approach by identifying the key challenges and opportunities and enabling adjustments and revisions to be made if necessary. The planning system has a focus on delivering sustainable development and sustainable communities. The AMR provides a check on whether those aims are being achieved.
- 4.3 An important aspect of the planning system is the flexibility to update components of the Local Development Framework to reflect changing circumstances. The ability to produce various Local Development Documents, as opposed to one Local Plan document, allows the Council to respond quickly to changing priorities for development and to react to the findings of the AMR expediently. The AMR plays a critical role in identifying whether policies are working and if they need replacing. If the AMR identifies that a policy

is not performing the Council should consider whether the policy needs replacing through a new Development Plan Document.

5. Key Issues

5.1 The AMR is a report of the monitoring of policies in Redditch's existing Local Development Documents. The AMR does not suggest new policies therefore it is suggested that it would be appropriate for officers to submit the AMR without Member endorsement, allowing more time for officers to prepare the AMR. If however the outcomes of annual monitoring suggest that alterations to policies may be necessary, the AMR and potential implications will be reported to Members.

5.2 This section of the report outlines the context of the AMR (Appendix A).

Introduction

5.3 The purpose of this fifth AMR is to meet a number of interrelated tasks, set out in Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (local development) (England) Regulations 2004 and in Planning Policy Statement 12 Local Development Frameworks.

Local Development Scheme Implementation

5.4 This section analyses whether the timetable for the preparation of documents set out in the LDS has been met or progress is being made towards them within the monitoring period. The progression of the Core Strategy was delayed due to an extended consultation period as part of the Core Strategy's development. As a consequence, the subsequent phase of Core Strategy development was not achieved, however this was accepted by Government Office.

Monitoring Policy Performance

5.5 A key element of the AMR is the monitoring of the implementation and performance of policy against its objectives. The Local Plan No.3 objectives have been the basis for developing Local Output Indicators, therefore this section should be read in conjunction with section 4.2 (main report – Appendix A) of the AMR.

Policy Implementation – The Main effects

5.6 This section of the AMR addresses the final requirements of an AMR by providing the Core Output Indicators and Local Indicators and setting out whether policies are to be amended or replaced.

Core Output Indicators

- 5.7 Core Output Indicators measure the quantifiable events directly related to planning policy implementation, they are set nationally. Core Output Indicators (COI) provide information on the following:-
- a) Business Development and town centres;
 - b) Housing; and
 - c) Environmental Quality.

Local Indicators

- 5.8 Local Indicators address the outputs of policies not covered by the Core Output Indicators. Local Plan policies are implemented through the Development Control process.
- 5.9 In measuring the extent to which objectives are being met, Local Indicators will serve to identify where policies need to be strengthened, maintained, changed in some way or, if necessary, removed from the plan.

6. Other Implications

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| Asset Management | - | None. |
| Community Safety | - | The AMR contributes towards community safety by monitoring the effectiveness of related planning policies. If the policies fail to work towards community safety the AMR will demonstrate this and relevant policies can be reviewed. |
| Human Resources | - | None. |
| Social Exclusion | - | The AMR contributes towards social exclusion by monitoring the effectiveness of related planning policies. If the policies fail to work towards Social Exclusion, the AMR will demonstrate this and relevant policies can be reviewed. |

7. Lessons Learnt

Not applicable.

8. **Background Papers**

None.

9. **Consultation**

The AMR is not subject to public consultation as it is a factual document. Relevant Redditch Borough Council Officers have been consulted in the formation of this Committee report.

10. **Author of Report**

The author of this report is Ashley Baldwin (Planning Assistant), who can be contacted on extension 3376 (e-mail ashley.baldwin@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix A - Annual Monitoring Report 1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009.