

29. Monitoring

- 29.1. Effective monitoring is a key part of the planning system. Monitoring will determine whether the Council's planning policies are being delivered as intended, having the desired outcomes and whether they are successful in responding to changing needs and circumstances. The steps in an effective monitoring approach are to:
- establish objectives;
 - develop policies to meet those objectives;
 - decide upon indicators which can be used to measure performance;
 - set targets; and
 - monitor and review progress.
- 29.2. Monitoring will also assess whether there are any significant environmental effects which arise from the implementation of the Council's planning policies: this is a requirement under Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations.
- 29.3. An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published in December each year and will outline performance against a range of indicators. Indicators relevant to the performance of Core Strategy policies are identified at the end of each section. They describe what will be measured and, where practicable, they are accompanied by a quantifiable target which states what should be achieved. Where a quantifiable target is not appropriate, a desirable trend will still be evident. The AMR monitors the attainment of targets and direction of trends in order to assesses the effectiveness of local planning policies.
- 29.4. Monitoring allows the Council to respond positively when targets are not being met, or trends are going in the wrong direction. Some policies contain a trigger point for such a response. The housing trajectory in Appendix 2 compares past and estimated future housing completions with the planned build rate. The trajectory helps to analyse whether or not housing delivery is on track. The AMR will report on all these and set out any remedial action needed.
- 29.5. The monitoring framework will be integrated with county-wide and Sustainable Community Strategy needs. A shared approach will help to use resources efficiently and to ensure the accuracy of information. Progress on targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy is reported separately.
- 29.6. A monitoring framework will inform the infrastructure planning process. It will keep a check on developer contributions and how they are being used to provide new infrastructure in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

Review

- 29.7 A proactive monitoring system will help the Council review its planning policies and keep them up-to-date, identifying potential adjustments to policies if appropriate and/or other necessary action.
- 29.8 The Council is committed to a partial review of the Core Strategy (i.e. after completion of the Site Allocations and Development Management DPDs). Evidence gathering will begin in 2013. The purpose of the review is to reconsider housing need and investigate ways of meeting that need more fully.

29.9 The Localism Act 2011 places a “duty to co-operate” on local authorities and other specified organisations. Dacorum’s local planning framework should therefore be based on joint working and co-operation with neighbouring authorities to address larger than local issues. The obligation stretches from plan-making to implementation, and will be explained in successive Annual Monitoring Reports. The partial review of the Core Strategy will be undertaken in co-operation with neighbouring authorities, taking account of their progress with development plan documents. The Council will aim to adopt the review by 2017/18.

29.10 Through the partial review, the Council will assess:

- a) household projections;
- b) the role and function of the Green Belt affecting Dacorum, including long term boundaries and the potential to identify safeguarded land beyond 2031; and more significantly,
- c) the role that effective co-operation with local planning authorities could play in meeting any housing needs arising from Dacorum. This element will include St Albans district and relevant areas lying beyond the Green Belt.

The outcome of the review cannot be prejudged.