

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

13TH DECEMBER 2007

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2006-07

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jill Dyer
Responsible Head of Service	Dave Hammond

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report summarises the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period between April 1st 2006 and March 31st 2007.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The attached Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Government Office of the West Midlands (GOWM).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks' was published in 2004 and stated that the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was an essential part of the Local Development Framework. The annual monitoring report reviews actual plan progress compared with the targets and milestones for Local Development Document (LDD) preparation set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). In accordance with the 2005 publication 'Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide' the AMR monitors development within the district of Bromsgrove under the following key indicators: business development, housing, transport, local services and the environment. The main findings of the 2006-07 AMR have been summarised as follows.
- 3.2 The production of a number of Development Plan Documents outlined in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been delayed, primarily because of poorer staff resources than at first envisaged. An updated LDS was approved by GOWM but it was not formally adopted as uncertainties created by the Regional Spatial Strategy Review, would have significantly changed the contents. A new version is being presented to members at this meeting.
- 3.3 In total, 2.58 hectares of employment land floorspace was developed within the monitoring period. This brings the total amount of employment land committed and developed between 1996 and 2007 to 25.5 hectares. The district has a stable and strong business sector with the registration of businesses significantly higher than de-registrations. The development of

high technology firms at locations such as Bromsgrove Technology Park in Aston Fields are likely to be a catalyst for such growth. Part of the former MG Rover plant at Longbridge has been retained as an employment site with permission already granted for the first 2 units.

- 3.4 In total 276 new dwellings were built in the district in 2006/07 with 49% of homes built at a density greater than 50 dwellings per hectare. Of these dwellings only 63 were affordable units this significantly below the levels set out within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The housing moratorium that is in place due the previous over supply of dwellings has hampered the delivery of affordable homes with there being a reliance on sites to deliver 100% affordable housing.
- 3.5 Due to the rural nature of the majority of the district there tends to be a reliance on private transport. However, the majority of new development, whether commercial or residential has been located within the town of Bromsgrove where public transport is most accessible.
- 3.6 The majority of development has been concentrated within the town of Bromsgrove as this is the most sustainable location; however there has been no major development within the town centre. The town centre will be the focus of redevelopment through an upcoming Area Action Plan that will form part of the Local Development Framework.
- 3.7 No planning applications were granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency to ensure developments are not taking place in locations where there is the greatest risk of flooding. No renewable energy capacity was provided within the district in the monitoring period. The Council has monitored planning applications where it was considered that there would be a significant impact on biodiversity. In the majority of instances biodiversity implications were considered fully to reduce the risk of any harm.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct implications of submitting the AMR to the GOWM.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 35 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase states that every local planning authority must make an annual report to the Secretary of State.

The annual report must contain such information as is prescribed as to—

- (a) the implementation of the local development scheme;
- (b) the extent to which the policies set out in the local development documents are being achieved.

The annual report must—

- (a) be in respect of such period of 12 months as is prescribed;
- (b) be made at such time as is prescribed;
- (c) be in such form as is prescribed;
- (d) contain such other matter as is prescribed.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

Council Objective (CO)	Regeneration (CO1)	Council Priority (CP)	A thriving market town (CP1)
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Impacts

The AMR assesses progress on the LDS and monitors progress on a series of key indicators. This includes monitoring progress on regeneration related planning documents such as the Bromsgrove Town Centre AAP. Continual monitoring can identify areas for future improvement in term of delivering regeneration to the town centre.

Council Objective (CO)	Customer service (CP2)	Council Priority (CP)	Customer service (CP2)
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Impacts

The AMR will be a publicly available document which assesses progress on the LDS and monitors progress on a number of key indicators.

Council Objective (CO)	Sense of Community and Well Being (CO3)	Council Priority (CP)	Sense of community (CP3)
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Impacts

The AMR monitors all part of a spatial planning framework which looks not only at the uses of land, but also the social and economic aspects of the community and how they can be enhanced though more inclusive planning policy.

Council Objective (CO)	Environment (CO4)	Council Priority (CP)	Housing (CP4)
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Impacts

One of the key monitoring indicators in the AMR is housing and monitors progress on the number of units delivered including affordable housing. The data collected helps to inform future housing strategies including the Affordable Housing SPD.

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Non legally compliant Strategic planning service

These risks are being managed as follows:

Risk Register: Planning and Environment

Key Objective Ref No: 6

Key Objective: Effective, efficient, and legally compliant Strategic planning Service

7.2 The AMR is a key part of the evidence base for the LDF without this information the likelihood of policy documents being found unsound is greatly increased as it would not be based on credible and robust evidence base.

7.3 Progress on the LDF is monitored by the government through the Local Development Schemes and Annual Monitoring Reports produced by the Strategic planning Section, this progress currently affects the amount of planning delivery grant the council receives.

8. **CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Endorsing the AMR will have no direct implications on the council's customers.

9. **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications for equality and diversity.

10. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	The AMR forms part of the evidence base for the LDF and therefore will help in the development of future policies.

Environmental	Monitoring will enable the development of future policies for the environment.
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11. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007

13. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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