

19. Monitoring and Review

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19.1 Local planning authorities are required to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area. They are also advised to ensure that their Local Plans have clearly defined aims and objectives against which the effectiveness of the Plan policies can be assessed.

19.2 The objectives and aims of this plan are set out in Chapter 4. The Plan will be monitored regularly to ensure that the policies are still the most appropriate for the prevailing situation. If they are found not to be, for any reason, then there will need to be new or replacement policies. Supplementary planning guidance may be issued in the meantime in view of the lengthy time-periods that formal alterations would involve.

19.3 The circumstances which may prompt the need for change include:-

- new development pressures;
- appeal decisions;
- changing local circumstances (e.g. a major site becoming available or new information coming to light);
- changing national circumstances (e.g. fluctuations in the economy);
- new legislation/guidance;
- revised regional planning guidance; or
- revised Structure Plan policy.

19.4 To ensure the successful implementation of this Plan, the following matters will be kept under review:-

- the 'Buildings at Risk' register of 'Listed Buildings' which are in need of attention;
- the extent of the Council's housing waiting list (and hence the target for the provision of affordable housing);
- the likelihood of Housing Association Grant (HAG) being made available for affordable housing schemes;
- the extent to which the 'supply' of housing land meets the identified 'need';
- the number and distribution of 'non-retail' frontages in primary and secondary shopping areas;

- the rate of unemployment and the skills and requirements of the unemployed;
- the amount of land in, and available for, industrial, business and warehousing uses;
- the need for recreational and community facilities across the District;
- the extent to which the Council's Countrycare service is achieving its aims; and
- the need for additional town centre and car parking facilities.

19.5 The Council already monitors the current situation relating to a range of planning matters by publishing the following documents annually:-

- Housing Bulletin;
- Housing Strategy Statement (incorporating its Housing Investment Programme bid); and
- Economic Development Statement (incorporating an Economic Bulletin).

19.6 An annual monitoring report will therefore be published, and appropriate action taken as necessary, in the light of:-

- the extent to which the objectives and aims are being met; and
- changing circumstances.

19.7 It is also intended to undertake the following work to progress implementation of the Plan:-

- the monitoring of the Tree Strategy;
- the production of management plans to conserve and enhance the character, appearance and appropriate use of sites in the countryside;
- the study of the scope for the re-use(for residential use) of vacant upper floors in commercial premises ; and
- the development of a comprehensive strategy for each town centre.

19.8 Government guidance is that Plans should be reviewed "regularly". Whilst there are no hard and fast rules, this is expected to mean at least once every 5 years. Depending on circumstances, these

formal reviews may well involve either an alteration to the Plan or the preparation of a replacement.