

# REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 December 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Authority's Monitoring Report
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Caroline Bruce, Corporate Director of Environment & Enterprise
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Keith Ferry, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 - Authority's Monitoring Report 2011/12 <i>[Appendix 1 has been circulated to Cabinet Members, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, Chair and Vice-Chair of O&amp;S Committee and key officer(s) only. A hard copy has been placed in the Members' Library and Group Offices. The document has been published with the agenda and can be viewed on the website.]</i> Appendix 2 – Recommendation from the LDF Panel – 3 December 2012 – to be circulated

## **Section 1 - Summary and Recommendations**

This report presents the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. The AMR monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of local planning policies and production of Harrow's new Local Plan.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Approve the Authority's Monitoring Report 2011/12, as attached at Appendix 1, for publication on the Council's website.

**Reason: (For recommendation)**

To enable the Council to comply with the requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

**Section 2 - Report**

1. In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Council is required to prepare Authority's Monitoring Reports and to make these available to the public. The draft AMR (2011/12), attached as Appendix 1, and the recommendation to publish the report on the Council's website, seeks to fulfil this statutory requirement.
2. The preparation of the AMR will assist the Council to meet its corporate priorities by monitoring the statutory planning policy framework put in place to help support our town centres and local businesses, support people who are most in need and deliver cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods.

**Options considered**

3. There have been recent changes to the requirements for preparing Authority's Monitoring Reports as detailed in paragraphs 5 and 6 below. Significantly, AMRs no longer need to adhere to a prescribed format, report on national indicators, or report to a set time period. However, all of these changes were implemented during the last monitoring period. For this reason, and the fact that the Harrow Core Strategy was only adopted late in the last monitoring period (in February 2012), it is appropriate that this year's AMR keeps to the same format of previous years AMRs. However, subsequent versions are likely to take on a different form and content, reflecting the monitoring of local indicators and targets.

## **Background**

4. This is the eighth AMR that the Council has prepared. All previous reports are made available to view and download from the Council's website:  
[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework\\_policy/1922/annual\\_monitoring](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework_policy/1922/annual_monitoring).
5. The purpose of the AMR is to monitor the effectiveness of implementing local planning policies. Progress is currently measured against a series of established national indicators as well as local monitoring targets developed in support of the extant Harrow Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies. However, the Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement to monitor and report on national indicators and targets as well as the need to prepare an Authority's Monitoring Report covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March and to submit this to the Secretary of State by the 31st December each year.
6. Under the new system, councils are still required, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended), to prepare reports on progress made in preparing the Local Plan and on the extent to which the policies set out in the Local Plan are being achieved, and to make such reports available to the public. The Localism Act also gives more flexibility as to when and how often such reports are prepared.

## **This years AMR**

7. The latest AMR provides an analysis of performance for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. In doing so, it also draws upon the data gathered since 2005, which enables trends to be identified and conclusions to be reached about whether individual policies are achieving their intended outcomes or whether they, or our processes, need to be modified or revisited to address changing circumstances and/or any areas of under performance. The AMR also monitors the Council's progress in preparing its emerging Local Plan documents (previously referred to as the Local Development Framework (LDF)).

## **Summary of key findings from this years AMR**

8. The following provides a brief summary of the main findings in the 2011/12 AMR:
  - Harrow's overall population is estimated to be 240,500 with projections showing that the population is likely to continue to grow over the next ten years
  - The average household size in Harrow was 2.8 persons in 2011, higher than the London average of 2.5 and the second highest level in England, after the London Borough of Newham
  - The 2011 Census estimates that there are 84,300 households in Harrow, which is an increase of 6.6% between 2001 and 2011. This

figure is at least 1.7% lower than pre-Census household projections were indicating.

- More detailed results from the 2011 Census (taken on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011) will become available from December 2012. These will lead to a re-basing of the Mid-Year Population Estimates and subsequent rounds of population projections, which currently largely use the 2001 Census as the baseline.
- The Government's 2010 Indices of Deprivation show that multiple deprivation in Harrow is well below the national average, with a ranking of 184 out of 326 districts in England - an improvement on the borough's 2007 position
- The Government's 2011 Business Register and Employment Survey shows that there was a 2.5% fall in the number of jobs in Harrow between 2010 and 2011
- The Annual Population Survey reports that Harrow's employment rate (based on residents aged 16-64) was 74.6% in 2011/12, above both the London and England & Wales rates of 68% and 70.1% respectively
- Harrow's adopted Core Strategy seeks to manage the release of surplus business and industrial premises, and promotes the renewal of office space to meet the needs of Harrow's businesses, with an overall objective to create 4,000 jobs in the borough by 2026
- There was a 4% decrease in recorded crime in Harrow in 2011/12, with falls in many of the major crime categories, such as common assault and wounding or grievous bodily harm, although there was an increase in assault with injury, personal robbery and residential burglary
- Harrow remains one of the safest London boroughs with the second lowest level of crime, compared to fourth in 2010/11 as measured by crime per 1,000 population
- The council continues to invest in improvements to its parks to uphold its green credentials. In July 2011, Pinner Memorial Park became the fourth of the borough's parks to achieve the Green Flag standard.
- Although none of Harrow's other parks were awarded Green Flags in 2011/12, the four existing parks did maintain their Green Flag status
- The Harrow Green Grid was approved by Cabinet in July 2011 and a number of green spaces have already benefited from this project including: Belmont Trail; Celandine Route; Canons Park; Montrose Walk; Bernays Gardens; Newton Farm Ecology Park; Headstone Manor woodland; and Stanmore Marsh
- There has been a marked improvement in the habitat quality at Bentley Priory Open Space
- Harrow continued to make good progress in decreasing the amount of municipal waste that goes to landfill. In 2011/12, 48.2% of waste was either recycled or composted.
- The total number of road accidents decreased in 2011 as did the number of killed and seriously injured and the total number of road casualties. The council is making good progress towards achieving its casualty reduction targets.
- Despite HUDP policies which seek to protect business and industrial premises there has been an overall loss of 71,557 m<sup>2</sup> net employment floorspace over the last five years along with a loss of employment land

- The average vacancy rate for retail frontages in town centres across the borough continues to fall. The number of town centres that have a vacancy rate of over 10% has increased from two to three.
- In summer 2011 Harrow Council received £860,000 Outer London Funding for North Harrow and Harrow Town Centre. The funding was secured to invest in a range of projects to boost footfall and spend.
- Development of the final two Children's Centres, Earlsmead and Elmgrove was completed
- The proportion of appeals allowed fell by 5% compared to last year and is now at the lowest level since 2004/05 remaining well within the 40% target
- The London Plan (2011) sets a minimum housing target for all London boroughs, and Harrow's is to deliver at least 350 new homes per annum. The adopted Core Strategy sets a borough-wide target to secure 40% of all new homes delivered over the entire plan period (2009-2026) as affordable homes.
- During the monitoring year 2011/12 a net total of 445 net new homes were completed in Harrow, of which 190 (42.7%) were affordable
- A good, deliverable Five-Year Housing Supply has also been identified and demonstrated

## **Implications of the Recommendation**

### **Legal Comments**

9. Under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Council is required to prepare reports monitoring the Council's progress in preparing its Local Plans and supplementary planning documents and the extent to which local plan policies are being achieved. The Council is also required by law to make its monitoring reports available to the public in the interest of transparency.

### **Financial Implications**

10. Costs associated with preparing the AMR 2011/12 relate to staff time and printing hard copies of the document. The cost of printing is approximately £1,100 and these costs are being met from the existing approved LDF Service budget. There are no additional costs involved with making the AMR available on the Council's website.

### **Performance Issues**

11. The AMR reports on Council's performance against local and former national indicators but does not itself impact on these. However, the primary role of the AMR is to highlight areas of underperformance through data analysis, and is therefore a key to informing and underpinning Council decisions as to whether or not action needs to be taken to address areas of concern.

## Environmental Impact

12. The AMR reports on the state of Harrow's environment, highlighting performance against targets and the achievement of policy outcomes. However, there are no environmental impacts associated with its production or publication on the Council's website.

## Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? Yes

13. The only implication of the AMR is where year-on-year data shows that the Council is unlikely to achieve a specific target. In such circumstances there will be an expectation that the Council will take action to address the situation. Where local indicators are concerned, the preparation of the emerging LDF affords this opportunity. With regard to national indicators, the Localism Act's removal of the requirement to report on these indicators has effectively mitigated this potential risk.

## Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

14. The AMR does not in itself contain any policies. Issues regarding equalities and diversity are to be considered in the context of preparing local planning policies but are not relevant to the AMR, which merely monitors the performance of implementing such policies.

## Corporate Priorities

15. The AMR does not propose policies or actions that give effect to the corporate priorities. However, it does collate data gathered by the Council and its partners that is useful in monitoring performance associated with:
- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe
  - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need
  - Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani

on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 6 November 2012

Name: Abiodun Kolawole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 12 November 2012		

### **Section 4 - Performance Officer Clearance**

Name: Martin Randall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Strategic Commissioning
Date: 6 November 2012		

### **Section 5 - Environmental Impact Officer Clearance**

Name: Andrew Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director (Environmental Services)
Date: 6 November 2012		

### **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Matthew Paterson, Senior Professional Policy Planning, Environment and Enterprise, phone 020 8736 6082

**Background Papers:** The AMR's for the periods 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. These are all made available to view and download from the Council's website:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework\\_policy/1922/annual\\_monitoring](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework_policy/1922/annual_monitoring).

<b>Call-In Waived by the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>  <i>[Call-in applies]</i>
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