

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- Local authorities in London and elsewhere have a statutory duty to prepare and keep under review Unitary Development Plans (UDPs), which contain policies and proposals for the development and use of land in their areas. Waltham Forest's UDP was originally adopted in January 1996. A First Review of the plan is now nearing completion and its formal adoption as Council policy is expected during early 2006.
- With the passing of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in September, 2004 the Government introduced a new development plan system. This requires preparation of development plan (and other) documents, which collectively make up a 'Local Development Framework' (LDF). Initially, the UDP Review and supplementary planning guidance will be "saved" for a period of three years during preparation of the emerging Local Development Framework. Ultimately, the UDP will be superseded by the development plan documents making up the LDF.
- The first document approved by the Council under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act was a project plan for preparing its Local Development Framework. This "Local Development Scheme" was approved in March, and formally brought into effect in October 2005. The second document to be finalised under the new system is this Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). Coupled with the adopted Unitary Development Plan Review and supplementary planning guidance, these will provide the initial building blocks for the Council's first LDF.
- Section 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 includes a requirement to produce an Annual Monitoring Report. This first AMR covers the period from 1st April 2004 until 31st March 2005. The Regulations specify that it must be submitted to the Government Office for London no later than the end of December 2005. The role of monitoring is highlighted in Government policy on 'Delivering Sustainable Development' (Planning Policy Statement 1 at paragraph 10) whereby every local planning authority now has a responsibility for reporting annually the extent to which policies set out in local development plans are being achieved. The AMR must indicate whether planning policies and related targets have been met, e.g. there is a specific requirement to show net additional dwelling completions and the Government's policy statement on Development Plans (Planning Policy Statement 12) also indicates that authorities should produce housing "trajectories" that demonstrate how policies will deliver housing provision in their area.
- This first Annual Monitoring Report is monitoring the objectives in the emerging Unitary Development Plan Review. They were developed before the focus on target and monitoring-led policy development was established in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. This makes monitoring more problematic as there are often no defined targets against which to measure the plan's objectives. This first AMR goes a long way towards establishing baselines and potential targets for future AMRs and for the development plan documents which will make up the Local Development Framework (which will be more target, and indicator-led).

- The Waltham Forest AMR is consistent with statutory requirements and comprises the following sections:
 - Executive Summary
 - Section 1 – Introduction
 - Section 2 – Contextual Indicators: these assess changes in the wider social, economic and environmental background against which the UDP policies operate
 - Section 3 – Future for Waltham Forest: a brief analysis of development projects likely to affect the borough’s future development
 - Section 4 – Local Development Scheme Implementation: a resume of work on the LDS (shown in detail in Appendix 1)
 - Section 5 – Analysis of Policy Performance & Effects: this summarises the monitoring data requirement highlighted during preparation of this first AMR
 - Section 6 – the main body of the report, comprises the 29 core output indicators required by the the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for monitoring purposes together with 19 further indicators developed by officers to monitor progress towards the UDP’s policy objectives. The data to be used comes from a variety of sources, notably planning application approvals and completions, land use survey information and other socio-economic/ demographic data
 - Section 7 – a short analysis of action required to improve data monitoring for future AMR compilation

- The report concludes with a Glossary of Terms used throughout and a set of appendices:
 - Appendix 1 – Local Development Framework Production Stages & Timetable
 - Appendix 2 – A definition of “Want to Work” data
 - Appendix 3 – More detailed information supporting some of the indicators
 - A1 Housing Trajectory Data
 - A2 New Developments proximity to local facilities
 - A3 Town Centre Statistics
 - A4 Conservation Area Schemes
 - A5 Definition of BV 205 Planning Quality of Service Check List

CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

- These can be summarised:
 - Demographic structure*
 - The population of Waltham Forest is currently 221,800 and relatively young with a diverse mix of ethnic groups (with above London averages of Pakistani/ Bangladeshi and Black residents).
 - Socio-cultural issues*
 - Waltham Forest is in the top 15% of deprived local authority areas in the country.
 - Economy*
 - Unemployment measured as the ‘want-to-work’ population¹ represents 7.7% of the borough’s working age population, with the main

¹ See appendix 2 for methodology

concentrations of non-employed residents in the south, centre and west of Waltham Forest.

- Unemployment by ethnicity is varied with Waltham Forest having a high rate of Pakistani/ Bangladeshi resident unemployment (28.7%), significantly higher than the Great Britain or London rate (Annual Population Survey (APS) 2004).
- Public administration, education and health employ the most people in the borough, followed by banking, finance and insurance.
- House prices averaged £197,868 in the financial year 2004/2005, much lower than the Outer London and Greater London averages of £228,268 and £262,685 respectively.

Environment

- Waltham Forest contains two exceptional areas of international importance - the Lea Valley with its floodplain marshes, open water and reedbeds, and sections of Epping Forest with its lowland wood pasture and acid grassland.

Transport and spatial connectivity

- The borough has very good public transport links with four Underground stations, two over-ground rail lines (from Chingford to Liverpool Street Station and a section of the Gospel Oak-Barking line passing through the borough) together with the third busiest bus station in London at Walthamstow.

THE FUTURE FOR WALTHAM FOREST

- Five key areas in the borough are expected to see regeneration activity within the next few years: Walthamstow Town Centre, Blackhorse Lane, Leyton, Whipps Cross and the Walthamstow Town Hall complex site.
- Other significant factors which will affect the borough's economic prospects are the proposed Stratford City development immediately to the south of Leyton and Waltham Forest being one of the host boroughs for the Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2012.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) IMPLEMENTATION

- The emerging UDP Review is due to be adopted during early 2006; all land use planning decisions will then be based on it for three years, until it is superceded by the LDF.
- Work on the LDF will start with the preparation of a Statement of Community Involvement during January 2006/7. Future Annual Monitoring Reports will monitor further progress on the LDF's preparation.

ANALYSIS OF POLICY PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTS

- These indicators have been developed to monitor the UDP policy objectives. All the ODPM core indicators have been included, plus indicators which will help to form baseline and trend data to help in the development of future LDF policies.
- In future years, as the LDF policies are developed, some of the indicators may become irrelevant or better monitoring indicators may emerge. However at present all indicators have been considered relevant to either current policy monitoring or future policy development.
- Targets for indicators have been developed either through the Council's Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) or through the UDP policies.
- Future AMRs will report on policy performance in relation to sustainability objectives as well as against the indicators highlighted below, but this year as

the report is assessing the UDP Review policies, introduced prior to sustainability monitoring, sustainability has not been monitored.

- Base line data on sustainability will be collected in the Waltham Forest Sustainability Assessment Scoping Report, work on which will also commence during 2006.
- There will be a crossover of indicators between the AMR and the Sustainability Assessment reports which will further inform the development of future policies.

LIMITATIONS OF AMR1

- Indicators marked with an oblique (/) on the following summary pages cannot be monitored in AMR1 as systems are not currently in place for the collection of this data. Over a third of the indicators which cannot currently be monitored are core ODPM indicators; the remainder are considered important in terms of collecting trend and baseline data for future policy development.
- Key areas requiring further data for proposed development are the relevant Use Class (existing and proposed), floorspace and whether approved applications have been completed / developed.
- The London Development Database (LDD) could be used to provide some of this information. However, as there is no facility to cross check data produced by the LDD with council records at present, the accuracy of the information provided through the LDD cannot be confirmed nor can detailed analysis be undertaken.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOR FUTURE AMRS

- The database system currently used internally by Waltham Forest to log and track planning application forms needs to be utilised more robustly, especially with regards to the floorspace and Use Class(es) involved.
- Unfortunately the limited data currently available will also impact on AMR2 as data entry will not have occurred for the period it will cover (1 April 2005 - 31 March 2006). It is therefore important that all necessary changes and additions to the current database should be put in place before 31 March 2006 to avoid a resulting impact on AMR3.
- The Building Control database needs to be linked to the planning application database so that planning applications can be fully traced from application to completion stage - many indicators require completion data as apposed to planning approval data. Currently collection of completion data is time-intensive and more importantly does not provide comprehensive, robust data for use in the AMR.
- In addition to the increased robustness of data inputted into the internal system there also needs to be an increase in trained staff to run the complex reports needed to provide data for the AMR, either within the Planning Policy Team or corporately. To meet statutory requirements AMR datasets will have to be produced at an agreed time every year.
- There are further issues linked with the collection of data relating to biodiversity, as the Council does not have the facilities available to collect habitat and biodiversity data. Closer links with the Corporation of London and the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority could be developed (as these organizations manage large areas of designated habitats within Waltham Forest) with the objective that the monitoring these organizations undertake of species and habitats can be used and documented in future AMRs.

SUMMARY OF INDICATORS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS INDICATOR TARGETS

✓	Target met	~	Good progress	x	Target not met	ND	Target not defined	/	Monitoring not currently possible
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No.	Indicator	Progress toward target
*1i-iii	Amount of land developed/ completed for employment by type in borough and specifically in development and/ or regeneration areas as defined by the UDP (LDF) and amount of employment land on previously developed land	/
*2	Loss of employment land in development/ regeneration areas	/
*3i-*iii	Employment land supply by type, loss of employment land in Waltham Forest and amount of employment land lost to residential development	/
4i-ii	Unemployment and employment figures	ND
5	Skills level of residents	ND
6	Floor space of mixed use development site approvals by type	/
7	Business and industrial uses created through regeneration schemes	✓
8	Number of planning applications for business expansion	/
*9i-*v	Housing trajectory showing net additional dwellings, annual dwelling requirements and average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements 1997-2017	~
*10	Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land	✓
*11i- *iii	Percentage of net dwellings completed at less than 30 dwellings per hectare, between 30-50 and above 50 dwellings per hectare	~
*12i & *ii	Affordable housing completions and type and tenure	x
13	Number of housing developments by type, family and non-family and developer	✓
14i & ii	Life time home standard and percentage of new housing developments containing wheel chair access units	~
15	Amount of new retail, leisure and office floor-space development in out-of-centre locations	/
*16i- ii	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure developments over 1,000 sqm and the percentage of these developments in town centres	/
*17	New completed residential development over 10 units within 30 min public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre as a percentage of total residential developments over 10 units	✓
18	Number of households living outside pedshed boundaries of designated centres and local retail parades	ND
19i - ii	Number of units in town centres by function and ownership type	ND
19iii & iv	Non-retail uses in primary and secondary shop frontages as a percentage of the total length	~
20	Percentage of vacant street level properties in designated/ non-designated shop frontages	ND
21	Number and floor space of approved applications for community training and education development	/
22	Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent	~
23	Number and floor space of approvals for health service uses	/

* ODPM Core indicator

No.	Indicators continued	Progress toward target
*24i & *ii	Residential units in car free developments and non-residential developments complying with parking standards (in UDP)	/
25	Number of applications with an S106 to improve walking/ cycle environment	ND
26	Number and size of protected areas within the borough	ND
27i - ii	Number of approvals on protected land, playing fields and allotment sites	/
*28	Change in priority habitats and species (by type)	/
*29	Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value	ND
*30	Percentage of eligible open space managed to green flag award standard	ND
31	List of vulnerable species and safeguarded habitats in the borough	ND
32	Number of sports pitches available to the public	✓
33	Approved redevelopment sites over 0.25ha (or 12 units+) submitting an urban design statement as a percentage of the total sites over 0.25ha	/
34	Number of applications granted with S106 agreements for environmental improvements	ND
35i & ii	Number of approvals/ enforcement cases in conservation areas/ listed buildings and number of conservation area schemes undertaken	ND
36	Total number of conservation areas in the local authority	ND
*37i- *iii	Amount of municipal waste arising by type, percentage of waste managed by type	ND
37iv	Kg of household waste collected per head	x
38	Number of waste and waste recycling centres lost to other uses	✓
39	Approved new residential developments (over 10 units) including recycling facilities or storage as a percentage of total approved new developments over 10 units	ND
40	Number of developments submitting EIAs	ND
*41	Number of permissions granted contrary to the advice of the EA on either flood defense or water quality grounds	✓
42	Applicants refused as a result of unacceptable levels of noise, vibration or light pollution as a percentage of total applications	ND
43	Application for gravel or mineral extraction refused as a percentage of the total applications for gravel or mineral extraction submitted	ND
*44	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	/
45	Approved residential developments (over 10 units) and commercial units over 1,000 sqm contributing 10% of energy requirements as a % of total developments in over 10 residential units or over 1,000 commercial sqm	~ /
46	Quality of planning service checklist	ND
47	Number of telecom base units approved	/
48	Number of developments over 10 units meeting cycle parking standards	ND

THE IMPACT POLICIES ARE HAVING IN RESPECT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TARGETS

The UDP policies listed below are directly linked to targets set at national and regional level – i.e. there is a numeric, measurable outcome. A limited number of policies have these targets and so contribute towards numerical targets developed at national or regional level. Many UDP policies also support and contribute to and comply with national and regional objectives. These policies are not listed below as they do not have a numeric, measurable outcome.

UDP policy No.	Target	National or Regional plan	is target being met?	Indicator measuring target
Housing				
SP11	9140 new homes (1997-2016) 440 per annum	London Plan	Good progress being made, AMR2 to report more fully	9i-v
HSG4	Maximising housing on previously developed land	PPG3 Para 23 "by 2008 60% of additional housing should be provided on previously-developed land and through conversions of existing buildings"	Yes – over 95% of additional housing is sited on brownfield land	10
HSG5	Affordable housing target 50% (70% social and 30% intermediate)	London Plan 3A.7	Good Progress being made	12i-ii
Waste, Pollution, Minerals, Water and Energy				
WPM1-5	Provide 4.5ha of land for waste disposal and recycling (2005-2020) 0.3ha per annum	PPG10 and Waste Strategy 2000, London Plan (a sub-regional target for North London (2005-2020) to provide 31.4ha)	Data not currently available, AMR2 to report	37i-iv, 38 and 39
WPM20 and 21	New developments to take into account energy efficiency and where appropriate new developments to incorporate and enable 10% of total predicted energy consumption to be from renewable energy sources, through on-site generation"	Renewable Energy to generate 10% of UK electricity by 2010 Energy Efficiency London Plan and PPG12	Good progress being made, AMR2 to report more fully	44 and 45

