

Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2024-25

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) monitors the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and assesses the progress and effectiveness of planning polices set out in the Local Plan. This AMR covered the period between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

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| Recommendation that: | a Members note the findings in the Annual Monitoring Report (Annex 1) |
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2. Background

- 2.1. Under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order Act 2004 (as amended by the 2011 Localism Act) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, local planning authorities are required to produce an Annual Monitoring Report.
- 2.2. This AMR is the fourth appraisal of the new Local Plan policies and begins to establish data trends to monitor whether policies are working or not. It is a presentation of facts based on planning applications received, decisions made, and policies used.
- 2.3. This AMR is accompanied by the Prosperous Economy Report 2024-25 (Annex 2) and a report on Residential Approvals 2024-25 (Annex 3), Residential Completions 2024-25 (Annex 4) and the Local Service Provision Survey (Annex 5). These background papers provide further detail about the type, location and distinctive area of planning approvals and completions, and will be published on our website.
- 2.4. We can also use the AMR to identify and consider any changes in local circumstances which may influence the effectiveness of our policies. This year's AMR includes additional monitoring requests from Member's review of the 2021 AMR, and this provides a useful context to the Local Plan policies.

2.5. The following key findings from the AMR (Annex 1) include:

- 91% of planning applications received were approved; 89% of which were approved under delegated powers.
- 64% of major applications were determined within 13 weeks or the agreed time extension, exceeding the target of 60%.
- 60 homes were built against an annual target of 80 homes. We recognise that the number of homes built during the plan period to date is below the target. There are many reasons why homes are not built, several of which are external factors outside our control as a Local Planning Authority. Nationally, high interest rates have slowed housing building alongside the lack of available materials and contractors. Internally we are working to ensure a sufficient supply of homes by delivering the actions in the Partnership Plan, progressing the Windermere Gateway development and working with the Rural Housing Enabler Service to progress Local Plan site allocations.
- 83 new homes were approved including 3 affordable homes.
- Across all Local Plan policies relating to the economy (policies 16, 17 and 19) a total of 58.5 full time equivalent jobs were created through planning approvals against a target of 190. This target has not been achieved for the past 4 years despite the good availability of employment and mixed site allocations, suggesting a lack of demand from the market for bringing forward employment site allocations.
- There has been a net gain of 1904.5 square metres in the amount of completed employment floor space.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Links to Local Plan - The Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020 - 2035 was adopted by the Authority in May 2021. The Local Plan sets a long-term vision for the Lake District. The Local Plan provides applicants, developers, and communities with certainty over the direction of planning allowing investment decisions to be taken. The data and their trends over a five-year period are used to help review the Local Plan.

- 3.2. Links to Partnership Plan – trend data from the AMR also supports the evidence for Partnership Management Plan review.

4. Options

- 4.1. a) You note the findings in the Annual Monitoring Report.
- b) You suggest an alternative approach.

5. Proposals

- 5.1. I propose option a). This AMR fulfils the monitoring framework requirements of the Local Plan, as tested through the Local Plan Examination, and provides a detailed review of the performance of policies and establishes a baseline for us to review these policies in the future. Additional contextual research and monitoring, requested following the presentation of the 2021 AMR, has been included in this AMR to allow Members to better understand the wider context and outcomes of the Local Plan policies.

6. Stakeholder Consultation

- 6.1. Not relevant.

7. Demonstrating Best Value

- 7.1. How has the recommendation –
- a) Challenged – this AMR provides the opportunity to compare data to monitor the effectiveness of the Local Plan 2020-2035.
- b) Compared – we are mindful of the results from previous iterations of the AMR to maintain an overview of progress. We also maintain an awareness of social economic issues at both national and local levels to provide the operating context.
- c) Consulted – the AMR is a review of performance based on facts; consultation is not considered necessary at this stage.
- d) Compete – Not relevant

8. Finance Considerations

8.1. There are no financial considerations arising from the recommendation.

9. Risk

9.1.

| Risk | Implication | Mitigation |
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| Members do not think the content of the annual monitoring is adequate or do not think sufficient progress is being made. | Additional officer resources will be required to undertake more thorough monitoring and analysis and other commitments in the Business Plan would have to be delayed or postponed. | Additional capacity would need to be identified, or other works stopped in the teams' service plan to provide additional staff resource. |

10. Legal Considerations

10.1. There are no legal considerations of relevance to this report.

11. Human Resources

11.1. There are no direct human resources implications as a direct result of this report.

12. Diversity Implications

12.1. There are no diversity implications as a direct result of this report.

13. Sustainability

13.1. The Local Plan encourages and supports sustainable development; the annual monitoring report highlights where positive effects are being made.

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| Background Papers | Annual Monitoring Report 2024-25, Prosperous Economy Report 2024-25, Residential Approvals 2024-25, Residential Completions 2024-25 and the Local Service Provision Survey 2025. |
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| Date Written | 29/10/2025 |

Annex 1: Annual Monitoring Report 2024-25

Annex 2: Prosperous Economy Report 2024-25

Annex 3: House Monitoring Report - Approvals 2024-25

Annex 4: House Monitoring Report - Completions 2024-25

Annex 5: Local Service Provision Survey 2025