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MONITORING

Introduction

- 17.1 The Core Strategy plays a central role in delivering the spatial vision for North Lincolnshire. To remain current and effective it must be able to respond to changes at the national, regional and local level. This also applies to other Local Development Framework documents. Therefore, the monitoring and review of the Local Development Framework (LDF) is central to its successful delivery.
- 17.2 This process provides important feedback on the performance of planning policy to assess its effectiveness in delivering the spatial vision and spatial objectives. It also helps North Lincolnshire Council, as the local planning authority, to define the characteristics of the area, determine baseline trends, and understand the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the area.

Plan, Monitor and Manage

- 17.3 A key feature of the LDF is that it should be flexible enough to be able to respond quickly to changing policies and circumstances through the 'plan, monitor and manage' approach. This enables different parts of the plan to be updated where necessary with monitoring directly initiating the review and amendment of policy. A sound plan should, therefore, include clear mechanisms to:
- Monitor the strategy's preparation and outcomes by reviewing its performance, effectiveness and relevance
 - Manage its implementation by taking early action to overcome barriers to delivery, or review the strategy to meet changing circumstances.
- 17.4 One of the tests of soundness of a Core Strategy is that it must be "effective" which is defined in government guidance as a strategy that is:
- Deliverable
 - Flexible
 - Able to be monitored.
- 17.5 Each of the above components is considered in more detail below.

Deliverability

- 17.6 Implementation of the policies contained in the Core Strategy will require concerted action by a range of public, private and voluntary sector bodies working in partnership. The document's role is to provide a clear and robust framework for development so that investment and action can be co-ordinated and geared to efficient and effective delivery of development. Whilst the council has neither the powers nor the resources to implement the Core Strategy in isolation it will work closely with local stakeholders.
- 17.7 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the core project management tool that facilitates the implementation and delivery of the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy in particular. It also sets out the programme for producing the variety of LDF documents that will support the Core Strategy. As such, the LDS can ensure that Core Strategy policies and proposals are brought forward in such a way that ensures priorities are tackled first (see also Chapter 16).
- 17.8 The effectiveness of these policies is kept under review in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) (see below) which identifies whether a policy is not being delivered or is not effective and needs to be amended and replaced.
- 17.9 In order to achieve the vision and strategic objectives established in the LDF, it is vital that the appropriate infrastructure is provided in order to support new development and to investigate ways to remedy existing deficiencies. Chapter 16 discusses infrastructure proposals in more detail. As part of preparing the Core Strategy, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been developed. Appendix 1 sets out an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule which is extracted from the IDP.

Flexibility

- 17.10 Upward and downward cycles in the economy will inevitably occur during the life of this strategy, which in turn will impact upon delivery. The strategy as a whole takes account of this by being flexible and adaptive to change, whilst maintaining the vision for growth over the longer term.
- 17.11 An important feature of the new system is the flexibility to update components of the LDF to reflect changing circumstances. The ability to produce various LDF documents will allow the council to respond quickly to national, regional and local priorities. If any changes are required these will be brought forward through a review of the AMR.
- 17.12 Linked to flexibility is the issue of what will be done if certain things do not happen as and when they are expected. One of the most important examples of this is what happens if an allocated site does not come forward for development as and when expected. This would trigger the need for either a partial review of the Core Strategy or an Area Action Plan to allocate an alternative site.

Ability to be Monitored

- 17.13 One of the requirements of the LDF system is that a robust framework is put in place to monitor and assess the effectiveness of policies and proposals in delivering the spatial objectives and ultimately the vision for North Lincolnshire. Application of a monitoring framework will identify which policies and implementation measures are succeeding and highlight those that are not achieving their intended effect and are thus in need of revision or replacement. In practice, each LDF document and policy will be monitored individually and the results will be compiled and published in the AMR.

17.14 The monitoring and review of policies will determine:

- What impact the policy is having and if it was the intended impact
- Whether the policy needs adjusting to achieve the intended impact
- Whether it needs to be replaced or deleted.

17.15 In North Lincolnshire an integrated approach is needed where economic growth, housing development and infrastructure provision go hand in hand to create a sustainable area. Therefore, the monitoring process will also consider an overview of the area - and the sub-region as a whole - to assess the extent that the spatial strategy is being delivered, remains appropriate, and is sustainable.

Monitoring Framework

17.16 The Monitoring Framework (Appendix 2) is intended to form the basis of the monitoring of the Core Strategy. It lists the indicators and targets for each section together with the monitoring system to be used. The targets and indicators that will be met by each policy are also identified at the end of each policy chapter, with all targets and indicators being 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound). Should annual monitoring of the indicators reveal any significant failure to meet targets, the council will take action to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

17.17 Production of an AMR each December is a statutory requirement for local planning authorities¹. It is the main mechanism for assessing the Core Strategy and appraises the performance of its policies and proposals as well as its preparation and implementation in accordance with a nationally- and locally-established framework of monitoring indicators. As a result, aspects of the Core Strategy that are not being implemented or targets that are not being met will be identified and reasons for this will be explained, indicating where further steps to review, amend or replace a policy is necessary.

17.18 The AMR will also assess progress made in preparing Local Development Documents (LDD) compared to the timetable and milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). If preparation of LDDs is behind schedule or targets are not being met the AMR will investigate the reasons for this. If the LDS needs amending or a new LDD is to be produced, the LDS will be amended accordingly and re-submitted for consideration and approval.

17.19 The Annual Monitoring Report sets out:

- Whether the LDF is achieving what it intends to achieve each year
- Whether it is being produced to the timescale shown in the Local Development Scheme
- If any adjustments to the Local Development Scheme are required for the next year.

17.20 The AMR contains a number of indicators, many of which are defined by government (the "core output" indicators), and more detailed local indicators and targets that will be included as LDF documents. It also contains a housing trajectory which compares past and estimated future housing completions against the regional housing supply requirement. The trajectory is a tool for analysing and illustrating whether future housing delivery is on target.

¹ Section 35 - Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004/Regulation 48 – Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

- 17.21 The monitoring framework will be reviewed as part of the AMR. If it is deemed that adjustments to indicators or targets are required, or if new, more appropriate data sources become available, then they will be introduced through the AMR.

Sustainability and the Environment

- 17.22 The potential social, environmental and economic impacts of the Core Strategy's policies and proposals will be identified through the statutory Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA). This report is required under both European and UK legislation to accompany each LDD to ensure that the final adopted document follows the most sustainable course. The performance of policies and proposals will then be monitored against the objectives and targets included in the SA/SEA, indicating the contribution of the Core Strategy to sustainable development.

Evidence Base

- 17.23 It is expected that the content of LDF documents should be informed and justified by more comprehensive evidence than was considered adequate for the previous development plan system. The evidence base, together with the monitoring framework, plays a vital role in the production of LDF documents in both the direction and justification of planning policy.
- 17.24 Various studies have been undertaken by North Lincolnshire Council to support the preparation of LDF documents and to meet national, regional and local requirements. The council will strive to ensure that the evidence base is robust and will stand up to scrutiny and that the monitoring systems are accurate and efficient to better inform future LDF and AMR preparation. A summary document of the evidence base used to underpin the Core Strategy is available to view alongside this document. Copies of the evidence base document can be viewed via the council's website www.northlincs.gov.uk or at Pittwood House by arrangement with Spatial Planning.

Review

- 17.25 A full review of the Core Strategy will take place after five years unless evidence suggests that an earlier review is necessary. Revision of key aspects of the evidence base will also be undertaken every five years unless monitoring indicates a more urgent need.

Summary

- 17.26 In summary, monitoring of the Core Strategy will check that identified targets are being met and will identify the actions needed to address any barriers or shortfalls. It will assess the risks associated with particular aspects of the Strategy and devise risk management strategies. It will also monitor the quality of new development and its compliance with the policies and proposals of the LDF, and assess the potential impacts of new or updated planning policy and guidance.
- 17.27 Performance of the Core Strategy will be measured against the vision and spatial objectives (whilst also considering whether the objectives are still appropriate), and against other relevant local, regional and national targets. The impact of policies will be measured against sustainability indicators to assess whether they are contributing to the creation of a sustainable North Lincolnshire, to the reduction of carbon emissions, and whether there are any significant unforeseen adverse effects.

- 17.28 Conditions across North Lincolnshire will be assessed in conjunction with partners to determine the need for further spatial interventions, including checking and updating the assumptions upon which the Core Strategy is based. Appropriate data will be collected to continually evolve the LDF evidence base. Indeed, information collected as part of the monitoring regime will be shared with and fed back to other partners and the community, as appropriate.
- 17.29 A full review of the Core Strategy and of the evidence base will take place every five years unless the need for a more urgent review is identified.

Key Documents:

- LDF Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (DCLG, 2008)

