

CABINET

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jane Chitty, Strategic Development and Economic Growth

Report from: Robin Cooper, Regeneration, Community and Culture

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Summary

This report seeks authority to publish the Annual Monitoring Report.

This is the Council's seventh Annual Monitoring Report, which analyses progress against a range of indicators associated with the adopted development plan and the emerging Local Development Framework.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Annual Monitoring Report complies with the Policy Framework, therefore, this is a matter for Cabinet. It has no budget implications.

2. Background

2.1 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all local planning authorities are required to submit to government an Annual Monitoring Report by the end of December each year.

2.2 The new Localism Act, which comes into effect from January 2012, removes the need for reports to be submitted to the Secretary of State but such reports will still need to be published locally.

2.3 This year's report brings together a great deal of information about the area for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. It is a valuable reference source for many services, external organisations and potential investors.

2.4 Copies of the Annual Monitoring Report have been sent to Cabinet Members, Group Rooms and the Chatham Community Hub. Further copies are also available from Democratic Services and via:

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=2337&Ver=4>

Please contact 01634 332509/332008 for further details.

- 2.5 The format of the Annual Monitoring Report remains broadly the same as in previous years despite the fact that the national guidance that governed content was withdrawn in March 2011. Although there is now more discretion available to Councils it is considered that there is little benefit in altering the format this year.
- 2.6 The report is based around a number of collections of performance indicators. From next year it is proposed that it will be built around the 'Monitoring and Implementation Framework' in the LDF Core Strategy. This is reproduced in Appendix 1 at the end of Volume 1 of the AMR.
- 2.7 The Monitoring and Implementation Framework includes a fuller list of indicators, which will be used to monitor progress of the policies of the Core Strategy in subsequent reports.

3. Options

- 3.1 Publishing an Annual Monitoring Report remains a statutory requirement, and it is a standard reference for various bodies interested in the Council's performance.

4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 The main findings of this years report are summarised below.
- 4.2 Despite the downturn in the economy this year 657 new homes were built in Medway, which was above the forecast of 591 units.
- 4.3 Of the 657 new homes 39% were classified as 'affordable'. This indicates once again an exceptional level of performance, which is very much to the credit of the Housing Strategy service.
- 4.4 The stock of employment land available for development remains at a record level of just over 936,000 sq.m. This reflects the relatively recent planning permissions at Kingsnorth and the Isle of Grain but other sites are also available within the main urban area and in association with the planned new settlement at Lodge Hill.
- 4.5 The proportion of employment development taking place on previously developed land this year is at a respectable 85%.
- 4.6 Education is the key to success and the number of residents in Medway qualified to NVQ 1,2,3 and 4 has continued a steady improvement that has been apparent since 2006.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 As the Annual Monitoring Report is a factual account of performance achieved there are no specific risks associated with its production.

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report. The Secretary of State will have new powers, under the Localism Act, to make regulations around the timing, content and form of annual monitoring reports, with the interval between reports being no longer than 12 months.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the 2011 Annual Monitoring Report be approved for publication.

8. Suggested reasons for decision

- 8.1 To report on development progress in Medway and comply with the Council's legal duty.

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Background papers

None.