

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL 1: 18 DECEMBER 2007
– FOR INFORMATION ONLY

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER - PLANNING AND HOUSING
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BRECKLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2007

Summary: This is the third Local Development Framework (LDF) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to be prepared by the Council since the implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The AMR outlines the Councils' performance against a number of Core Output Indicators set out in best practice guidance and monitors the progression of the LDF against the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 All local authorities are required to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) by virtue of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This is the third AMR to be produced by the Council and seeks to monitor a number of Core Output indicators outlined in the ODPMs' 'Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide'. The Council must submit their Annual Monitoring Report to the Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) by 31st December in order to successfully meet BVPI200c.

2. KEY DECISION

2.1 This is not a key decision.

3. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CRIME & DISORDER

3.1 There are no issues raised by this report relating to Equalities, Human Rights and Crime and Disorder.

4. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

4.1 The matters raised in this report fall within the following Council priority:

- A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities

5. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

5.1 The Annual Monitoring Report seeks to assess the current and future position of policies and proposals in the adopted Local Plan and Local Development Framework against national requirements. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has published good practice guidance that includes a number of Core Output Indicators that Local Authorities are expected to monitor. These indicators include housing development, employment, retail, renewable energy and transport development. Furthermore, additional information is required to assess gains and losses in various land types to other uses and outline remaining land supply. The AMR also monitors the Councils progress against the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and will highlight the need for early review. The AMR is a procedural document and sets out a number of steps that the council will take in order to address any concerns highlighted in the report.

5.2 The annual monitoring report assesses the status of core Output Indicators during the financial year 2006/07. The following paragraphs outline the key findings from the report.

Housing

- During the last financial year, 518 new houses were completed in the district. Of these, 29 units were affordable.

Employment

- During the monitoring period, a gross site area of 11.6 hectares of employment use land has been developed. There is currently 116.4 hectares of employment use land that is undeveloped

Renewable Energy

- In the last financial year the wind energy development at North Pickenham was completed. This development of 8 turbines, provides an additional renewable energy capacity of 16MW making the total for Breckland, 19.3MW.

- 5.3 The Annual Monitoring Report recognises that in the financial year 2006/07 the Council has had to review the milestones included in the LDS, to allow for further consultation and further evidence base collation. A revised LDS was published in May 2007 and this will form the basis for project managing the milestones in the LDF over the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09.
- 5.4 Although a number of improvements have been made, this third AMR has again been unable to monitor all of the Core Output Indicators outlined in best practice guidance. There are a number of reasons as to why Breckland has not been able to do so this year. The main reason is that the spatial capture of planning applications has not been completed. Next year's report should be able to further improve Core Output Indicator monitoring with the completion of the spatial capture of historic planning applications.
- 5.5 Staff resources are also an issue in terms of the ability to undertake monitoring tasks; however the recent agreement to fund two additional temporary posts including an Environmental Planning Assistant post will help to increase the quality and quantity of monitoring available in next year's return.

7. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. This Report is for information only and no options are available.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 To submit an Annual Monitoring Report by 31st December 2006 so the Council meets BVPI200c.

RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL 1

- 9.3 Members to note the contents of this report for their information

This report has taken account of the need for compliance with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. This report raises no matters to which attention specifically needs to be drawn under the legislation.

Appendices:

- A – Breckland LDF Annual Monitoring Report