

12 December 2022

Report of	Assistant Director of Place and Client Services	Author	Laura Goulding
Title	Authority Monitoring Report 2021 - 2022		☎ 0330 053 8063
Wards affected	All wards affected		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Authority Monitoring Report provides an annual summary of key statistics that allows the Council to monitor the effectiveness of its Local Plan and report on other information.

1.2 Key statistics for the monitoring period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 include:

- Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD) consultation commenced on 14 March 2022 for 6 weeks, until 25 April 2022.
- The population size of Colchester increased by 11.3%, from around 173,100 in 2011 to 192,700 in 2021, as outlined in the Census 2021
- The Council transferred £75,738.73 of RAMS contributions to Chelmsford City Council.
- 1,034 New dwellings built in Colchester Borough
- 1,982 planning applications received
- A total of 117 affordable houses have been delivered, including 45 new build units and a further 71 homes acquired by the Council
- West Mersea and Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plans were adopted in March 2022.
- The Council updated its Climate Emergency Action Plan in June 2021.
- The Council were successful in a further bid to Defra for £243.7k to carry out Phase 2 of the CAREless Pollution campaign, carry out a Home Burning campaign to raise awareness of the health impacts of particulate matter and to introduce shared transport schemes including 2 electric car club cars and 2 ebike/ecargo bike hubs to encourage travel behaviour change.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 To approve the 2021-22 Authority Monitoring Report for publication on the Council's website.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Until the Localism Act came into effect in April 2012, Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act required that every Local Planning Authority (LPA) should prepare and publicise an Annual Monitoring Report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) and Local Plans are being achieved.
- 3.2 The Localism Act removed the requirement for local authorities to submit their Annual Monitoring Report to Government but retains a duty for local authorities to monitor policies. The Council accordingly still needs to demonstrate the effects of its policies in what is, as of 2015, termed an Authority Monitoring Report providing the opportunity for updates as and when data is available.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternatives as the Council needs to provide a monitoring source of information on the delivery of its planning functions.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) provides key information that helps the Borough Council and its partners evaluate planning policies in the context of current trends and delivery levels. The full report covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 is attached as Appendix 1 and will be available to view on the Council's website, and in hard copy upon request to the Planning Policy team.
- 5.2 As part of the Localism Act, authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in their monitoring reports as long as they are in line with the relevant UK and EU legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the Council's planning service with the local community. The format of this AMR accordingly is designed to clearly demonstrate how the Council is meeting targets and indicators arising from the adopted policies in the Local Plan.
- 5.3 The AMR measures progress on the adopted Local Plan for the monitoring period, which was the Section 1 Colchester Local Plan 2021, Core Strategy 2010 (amended 2014), Site Allocations DPD 2010, Development Policies DPD 2010 (amended 2014) and Proposals Maps 2010.
- 5.4 Indicators have been updated this year in accordance with the monitoring framework of the Section 1 Colchester Local Plan. These include the following;
- Record of planning decisions including appeals (Planning Applications Indicator 1)
 - Market and affordable housing completions per annum (net) (Housing Indicators 1 and 2)
 - Essex Coast RAMS mitigation contributions received (Environment Indicator 7)
- 5.5 Indicators relating to the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community have not been included this year as there is not sufficient information available to monitor these currently. Once the DPD has been examined and adopted, this position will be updated and likely reflected in the 2023 or 2024 AMR.
- 5.6 As the Section 2 Colchester Local Plan was adopted in July 2022 (outside of this monitoring period), indicators for this monitoring framework will be included the 2023 AMR.

- 5.7 On 23rd November 2022 Colchester Borough became Colchester City following City Status being awarded. However, the AMR continues to refer to Colchester Borough as the date fell outside the monitoring period.
- 5.8 The AMR also includes information on how the Council is working with partners to meet the duty to co-operate on cross-boundary strategic matters. CBC has met this requirement by holding a number of meetings on cross-border, sub-regional and regional issues with relevant stakeholders.
- 5.9 The AMR is divided into a number of key themes covering progress in meeting Local Plan policy aspirations across a variety of areas.
- 5.10 The Housing section documents historic delivery rates and provides a detailed list of housing units delivered in the last financial year. The requirement for the Council to demonstrate how it intends to meet the five year housing land supply requirement has been addressed by the publication of a separate Housing Land Position Statement which was last published in August 2022 and demonstrated that the Council has a five year land supply.
- 5.11 Other key findings include:
- The total number of applications (major, minor and others i.e. change of use and listed building consent) received between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 of 1,982 shows an increase on last year's total of 1,535. This figure however does not include all applications i.e. discharge of condition and preliminary inquiries.
 - A net of 1,034 dwellings were built between 1 April 2021 and 4 July 2022. This is higher than the previous year's total of 741 and above the Objectively Assessed Need target of 920 dwellings a year for Colchester.
 - A total of 117 affordable homes have been delivered across the Borough. During the monitoring period 45 new build affordable housing units were delivered consisting of 29 Affordable Rent, 6 were Social Rent and 10 Shared Ownership. The comparable figures for the previous three years were 42 in 20/21, 202 in 19/20, and 110 in 18/19. This demonstrates the second lowest number of new build affordable housing units delivered in the last four years, the main reason for this being the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - 39 of the new build affordable homes were delivered through Section 106 obligations. with the remaining 6 units delivered via the Council's development arm. No commuted sums were received for affordable housing.
 - Outside of Section 106 and the Council's development company, a further 72 affordable units have been delivered through the Council's acquisitions programme.
 - The West Mersea and Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plans were made (adopted) in March 2022.
 - The Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan has returned to the Regulation 14 stage and although out of the monitoring period it had proceeded to Regulation 16 Consultation in Summer 2022 and the examination commenced in October 2022. Other neighbourhood plans have continued to progress during the monitoring period.

- The Colchester Travel Plan Club (CTPC) has continued to work closely with CTPC members and Essex County Council to further develop their travel plans, and to continue the process of gaining Modeshift STARS accreditations.
- A total of 212 Residential Travel Information Packs have been provided to new residents across 4 residential developments in Colchester in 2021/22.
- A third bid to DEFRA was submitted in October 2020 for £248,700 in funding to run the CAREless Pollution campaign for another 12 months, to deliver a winter home-burning campaign and for the development of two shared transport hubs which will include electric bikes, electric cargo bikes and ecarclubs. The Council, were successful in its bid and work begun in Summer 2021.
- Throughout 2021/22 the CAREless Pollution campaign has continued to build momentum in the community through work with residents, schools, businesses and community groups to tackle idling within the air quality management areas.
- The Homeburning campaign ran for four months from December 2021 to March 2022. The aim was to raise awareness of the health impacts of pollution generated by home fires and log burners, specifically Particulate Matter (PM2.5) and provide information to help local people take positive action to reduce these risks and 'burn safe', 'burn better', 'burn clean' and 'burn less'.
- The AMR shows that there was no loss/damage to Scheduled Monuments, Designated Sites (including SSSI, SAC, SPA, SINC and RAMSAR) or key community facilities in 2021/22.
- The Council have taken on an additional area of 5,638m² of open space during the monitoring period. This open space is across two sites, Barton Boulevard and Northfields.
- A four week consultation was held from 8 February to 8 March 2021 to extend the Garrison Conservation Area to include the ABRO Site, Roman Circus House, adjacent open space and Artillery Folley. Following consultation, the Garrison Conservation Area was extended at Local Plan Committee in June 2021.
- A Roman Circus Management Plan was adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in June 2021. A Development Brief for the Abro Site was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in December 2021.
- The Council updated the Climate Emergency Action Plan in June 2021 which covers the period 2021 to 2023 and sets out the Council's strategy for how to be carbon neutral in all its operations by 2030.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Plan, and is available to view by clicking [here](#).

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The Strategic Plan is relevant in particular contributing to priorities under the themes:
- Creating safe, healthy and active communities;
 - Delivering homes for people who need them; and
 - Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The AMR considers the effectiveness of Local Plan policies which have been through a comprehensive consultation programme as set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 The AMR provides a wealth of statistical information on the Borough which may warrant press attention.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications. The AMR however, provides evidence to evaluate the effect of wider economic influences on Council planning policies and highlights the potential for the Council to benefit from Government funding linked to housing delivery.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 There are no health, wellbeing or community safety implications for the Council.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no health and safety implications for the Council.

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 Monitoring policies to ensure their effectiveness is intended to reduce the risk of inappropriate development. It will provide consistent advice to landowners, developers, officers, Councillors and members of the public.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. These are economic, social and environmental objectives.
- 14.2 The AMR includes a chapter titled 'Climate Change' which highlights the Council's latest initiatives in relation to reducing the impacts of climate change across the Borough.

Appendices

Appendix A – Authority Monitoring Report 2022