

# Report



## Planning Committee

---

### Part 1

Date: March 2024

**Subject** Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report

**Purpose** To report on the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the Local Development Plan 2011-2026.

**Author** Planning Policy Manager

**Ward** All wards

**Summary** An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is submitted to Welsh Government and reports on the progress of the LDP against a set of indicators. The AMR process is undertaken in accordance with the Monitoring Framework set out within Chapter 12 of the LDP. This report provides a summary of the eighth AMR which has been submitted to Welsh Government.

**Proposal** To note and discuss the Annual Monitoring Report 2023.

**Action by** Planning Committee

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law and Standards, Monitoring Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Regulation and Housing

**Signed**

## Background

The Newport Local Development Plan (2011-2026) was adopted in January 2015 and became the adopted development plan for Newport. In accordance with statutory requirements the performance of the LDP has been monitored on an annual basis with eight Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) approved by Cabinet Member and published to date. The AMRs assess the extent to which the LDP strategy, objectives and policies are being delivered and implemented.

An AMR monitors the effectiveness of the policies within the LDP and is the main mechanism for reviewing the relevance and performance of the LDP. It identifies whether any policy changes are necessary. The AMR 2020 recommended that the Council begin a review of the adopted Local Development Plan and this was approved by Cabinet in October 2020. Since then, officers have continued to monitor the implementation and delivery of the adopted Local Development Plan whilst undertaking the review process. The Replacement Local Development Plan process formally began in May 2021.

### Annual Monitoring Report 2023

The eighth Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of the LDP has been submitted to Welsh Government and published on the Council's Website.

The AMR 2023 monitors the delivery of the LDP during the period of April 2022 to March 2023. Key conclusions of the AMR can be summarised as:

- There have been improvements to the delivery of housing and employment land between the 2022 and 2023 monitoring periods. Planning permissions were showing positive trends.
- 91% of all new homes had been delivered on previously developed land.
- 43 hectares of new employment land has been created during the LDP period so far. 24.87 hectares of this is on EM1 allocations and has been delivered. 13.4ha of employment land was granted permission during the 2023 monitoring period.
- Jobs growth increased and is above the LDP target set for this period.
- No Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Green Belt, Green Wedge, greenfield land or protected woodland were lost contrary to LDP policies.
- Further investigation is needed into development in areas subject to flood risks, housing delivery and needs for accommodation/sites for Gypsies and Travellers. These are to be addressed through the Replacement Local Development Plan and the evidence which underpins it.
- Overall, 7,482 new homes, including 1,523 affordable homes have been delivered since 2011.
- Data gaps exist where some sources of information have been discontinued during recent years. Effort has been used to find best fit data where appropriate, but there could be implications when comparing outcomes of particular indicators across different monitoring periods if this approach was to be taken throughout the process. This has been concluded as a result of the age of the plan and a review of the monitoring framework will be undertaken as a part of the Replacement Local Development Plan.
- The AMR reviews the implementation of policies by Development Management Officers and support is provided to ensure that all relevant policies are being identified and used correctly. The latest session took place in February 2024.
- Training for Planning Committee Members was identified in relation to flood risk. It is intended to organise a training session by Natural Resources Wales to coincide with the implementation of the new Technical Advice Note 15 Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion.

It is encouraging that housing and employment delivery has increased following a slowing down of delivery as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit. The Replacement LDP process enables us to identify new opportunities for development to ensure steady delivery of new home and jobs. It will also be an opportunity to review policies relating to issues such as City Centre regeneration, Gypsy/Traveller accommodation, Houses in Multiple Occupation and development in floodplains.

Overall, it is considered that the existing LDP continues to work well to achieve its aim of shaping the future growth of Newport up until 2026, by facilitating continued sustainable development in Newport. The Replacement LDP is progressing well with the consultation on the Preferred Strategy and the proposed Deposit Plan being presented to Cabinet and Council in September 2024. It is expected that the new LDP will be adopted prior to the end date of the current LDP.

### Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

There are no financial implications associated with this report and the monitoring of the performance of the adopted Local Development Plan.

### Risks

It is important to identify and manage any project or scheme's exposure to risk and have in place controls to deal with those risks.

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
Planning Committee disagree with the outcomes of the Annual Monitoring Report 2023.	M	L	The AMR is a review of performance of the adopted LDP using evidence and data. Constructive discussion on the findings of the AMR are welcomed but as the report outcomes are based on monitoring criteria approved as part of the adopted plan and uses evidence and data to support the findings, it is unlikely that there will be any significant areas of disagreement.	Planning and Development Manager / Planning Policy Manager

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Local Development Plan is one of the statutory plans the Council has to prepare, the current LDP determines Newport's land use policies to 2026. The LDP covers many topics that impact on other sections of the Council e.g. drainage, tourism, education etc. Liaison with those sections is an essential part of the planning process. The Replacement LDP will consider any new Council policy, strategy or priority and its impact on the policy framework for the Council. Whilst this isn't the role of the AMR, it does consider contextual indicators within Chapter 3 and, where appropriate, is able to identify links between monitoring indicators and various Council policies and strategies, including:

- City Centre Masterplan
- Flood Risk Management Plan
- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Destination Management Strategy
- Economic Growth Plan

### Options Available and considered

This report is for noting and discussion only. No formal decision is required.

### Preferred Option and Why

This report is for noting and discussion only. No formal decision is required.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

As a position statement, the report is not asking members to approve any financial implications. Any implementation actions, measures and costs are expected to be afforded by the budgeted resourcing attributable to Local Development Plan in the first instance, and any additional resourcing necessity would be reported by exception for consideration.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The Council as Local Planning Authority is required to submit an LDP Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Government. This report has been compiled in order to advise Planning Committee of the most recent submission and is for information only. No decision is required so there are no legal or procedural issues arising.

## **Comments of Head of People Policy and Transformation**

This report provides Planning Committee with the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Development Plan 2011-2026, which was submitted to Welsh Government.

There are clear links to the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 vision of 'an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone', and its four Well-being Objectives. The principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its five ways of working have been considered directly through the Replacement Local Development Plan and its Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.

A Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment wasn't required, and there are no staffing or HR related issues arising directly from this report.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

This report has not been subject to any scrutiny committees.

## **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:**

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

An FEIA has not been completed as this proposal is to note the AMR 2023. The AMR monitors the implementation and effectiveness of the policies within the adopted LDP, it does not itself change or amend policies. Only a Local Development Plan review process can do this. The process for adopting the Local Development Plan fulfilled requirements and duties of the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, as well as of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Replacement Local Development Plan is subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal which will fulfil requirements and duties for:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA),
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA),
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA),
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA), and
- Well-being of Future Generations (WCFG).

## **Consultation**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Regulation and Housing approved the AMR 2023 for submission to the Welsh Government, in accordance with the regulations. The Cabinet Member has commented as follows:

I am pleased with the positive outcomes shown in the AMR with regards to growth, housing and employment opportunities. This continues to show that the LDP is delivering sustainable development as intended.

## **Background Papers**

Annual Monitoring Report 2023

Dated: 20 February 2024