

Part A

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 1 June 2020

**Report author:** Spatial Planning Manager

**Title:** Watford Authority Monitoring Report 2019

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Watford's Authority Monitoring Report 2019 ('AMR') outlines progress made against the local plan timetable and assesses the effectiveness of planning policies against various targets and indicators to see whether the local plan objectives are being achieved. As part of this work mandatory information is required to be included within Authority Monitoring Reports in accordance with current planning regulations.
- 1.2 Watford's Authority Monitoring Report (Appendix 1) covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Where relevant more recent information is available this is noted in the commentary in order to provide as up to date a picture as possible.
- 1.3 The Authority Monitoring Report supplies key information on the delivery of the Local Plan Core Strategy key objectives. The Authority Monitoring Report, including the Executive Summary, forms Appendix 1 to this Cabinet Report. It will also be available to download separately on our website [www.watford.gov.uk](http://www.watford.gov.uk)
- 1.4 Members' attention is drawn to Appendix 2, which is a quick reference table providing a range of results on target led indicators and trends from the Authority Monitoring Report.

**2.0 Risks**

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response	Risk Rating
Instances of planning policies not performing as intended	Criticism of performance of planning decisions. Implementation of ineffective planning policies result in planning decisions	The Authority Monitoring Report identifies how the council is meeting its planning policies and provides the opportunity to identify areas for	Tolerate	4

	<p>that do not effectively contribute towards objectives set out in the Core Strategy (Local Plan).</p> <p>Need for a review of the Core Strategy (Local Plan) not identified.</p>	<p>greater attention through decision making and policy review.</p> <p>Review of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is being undertaken.</p>		
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### 3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 That, the Authority Monitoring Report be noted and published and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning Policy to make any minor amendments or corrections as required.

**Further information:**

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**Report approved by: Managing Director**

### 4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 AMRs have an important role in the ongoing management of planning policy by identifying changing circumstances and providing the context against which to consider the need for any review of the planning policies in place at the time.
- 4.2 The Watford AMR currently presents contextual information and reports on a range of indicators and targets relating to the Watford Core Strategy (Local Plan).
- 4.3 The AMR can be found at Appendix 1. At appendix 2 there is a quick reference table providing a range of results on target led indicators and trends from the AMR.

### 5.0 Implications

#### 5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that any costs associated with this report will be met from the Local Development Framework budget.

## 5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

## 5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report. The application of existing policies will be covered by existing equalities assessments and the review and preparation of new policies will be subject to assessments at the appropriate time.

5.3.2 Having had regard to the council's obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, it is considered that officers are not required to undertake a Data Processing Impact Assessment (DPIA) for this report.

## 5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 The Authority Monitoring Officer retired in 2017. The work is now integrated into the work programme of the individual planning policy team members.

## 5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 N/A

## 5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 Community safety considerations are an important part of urban design and residential as well as commercial planning policy.

## 5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 There are a wide range of key sustainability issues addressed in the Local Plan and these are reflected in the AMR.

## 6.0 **Appendices**

Appendix 1. Watford Authority Monitoring Report 2019

Appendix 2. Summary: Local Plan Monitoring Findings 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

## 7.0 **Background papers**

The Monitoring Data uses the CDP Smart system from the Information Unit at Hertfordshire County Council for a large source of data. Furthermore, there are a large number of data sources from the ONS, etc. These are sourced within the main body of the report.