
NFNPA/PDCC 195/16

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING – 19 JANUARY 2016

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2015

Report by: Sarah Applegate, Senior Policy Officer

Recommendation:

1. To note the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2015 as attached at Annex 1.

1. Introduction

1.1 As a local planning authority, the Authority is required to produce a Monitoring Report each year which should contain details of:

- the timetable and progress of the documents set out in the Authority's Local Development Scheme;
- the numbers of completed dwellings and affordable dwellings; and
- the Authority's co-operation with other local planning authorities or relevant bodies during the monitoring period (the 'duty to co-operate')

1.2 The 2015 Annual Monitoring Report attached at Annex 1 covers the period from **1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**.

2. Monitoring results overview

Local Development Scheme

2.1 The Authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS) was brought into effect on 26 April 2011 and a number of the documents listed have now been adopted, including the Design Guide SPD, the Development Standards SPD and more recently the Minerals and Waste Plan. In addition, a number of other documents have also been adopted including several Village Design Statements.

2.2 The LDS also identifies that the Authority will produce a Sites and Designations Development Plan Document (DPD). However, with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) signalling a return to a single 'local plan' the proposed contents of the Sites and Designations document will be wrapped up in the review of the Authority's Core Strategy, and reviewed to reflect recent changes in national planning policy, and any new policy requirements. Members are now fully involved in the emerging review of the Authority's local planning policies.

Policy performance

- 2.3 Initial analysis of the performance of the planning policies covering the National Park indicates that they are generally performing well and the Authority continues to broadly achieve the objectives set out in the Core Strategy. The Authority's adopted local planning policies continue to be well supported at appeal.
- 2.4 Although the Authority's adopted Core Strategy does not allocate any sites the Monitoring Report highlights that there remains a healthy stock of sites with planning permission for a range of business and industrial uses, amounting to 1,011m² of floorspace. This is in addition to a net gain of 2,947m² of new employment floorspace, highlighting the strong performance of the Forest's local economy.
- 2.5 With regard to housing, there were two dwellings completed in the monitoring period of April 2014 to March 2015 (compared to 34 the previous year). However, analysis of housing completions since 2006 to the present has resulted in an average figure of 21 new houses completed each year, well above the annualised housing figure of 11 dwellings per year set out in the Core Strategy. Overall it should be emphasised that completions within the National Park are on target to meet the Core Strategy target of 220 additional dwellings required within the National Park between 2006 and 2026, and have already achieved 193 dwellings out of the identified 220 set out in the Core Strategy.
- 2.6 No affordable dwellings were built this monitoring period, compared to four last year. As with the housing completion figures above, this is partly due to the reporting period of April 2014 to March 2015 resulting in a number of completions falling just outside the scope of this Report. Both affordable housing and total dwelling completions are likely to show a rise in next year's Report with a number of larger developments in the National Park nearing completion.

3. Duty to Co-operate

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a 'duty to co-operate' on strategic planning matters (defined as those affecting more than one planning area) applying to local planning authorities and a range of other organisations and agencies. During the monitoring period the Authority's officers have liaised with a range of organisations including New Forest District Council on the emerging review of their planning policies. Comments have also been made on the draft plans and strategies of other authorities including the strategic and site specific minerals and waste documents of Dorset County Council and the draft Gypsy and Traveller in preparation by Wiltshire Council.
- 3.2 The Authority has also engaged with the Enterprise M3 Local Economic Partnership looking at various cross-boundary economic issues by attending regular officer meetings. Officers continue to liaise with other National Parks, and other local planning authorities in Hampshire, to share examples of good practice and facilitate joint commissioning of evidence where possible.

4. Monitoring of future trends

- 4.1 A number of changes to permitted development rights were brought into effect in 2013, many of which require prior approval from the local planning authority. The Monitoring Report notes that there is some proposed loss of office floorspace to be converted to dwellings. Further monitoring will identify whether this continues as a longer term trend.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. To note the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2015 as attached at Annex 1.**

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Papers: **NFNPA/PDCC 195/16**
Annex 1 – New Forest National Park Annual
Monitoring Report 2015

Equality Impact Assessment: **There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.**