

**PC 360-21**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 MARCH 2021**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020**

**Report by:** Sarah Applegate, Senior Policy Officer

**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 number of completed dwellings and affordable dwellings; and
  - the Authority's co-operation with other local planning authorities or relevant bodies during the monitoring period (known as the 'duty to co-operate')
- 1.2 The 2020 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is attached at Annex 1 and covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. As the New Forest National Park Local Plan was adopted on 29 August 2019, the AMR looks at the effectiveness of both sets of planning policies in the Core Strategy and in the Local Plan, for the respective parts of the monitoring period they were in place. Next year's report will focus solely on the performance of the policies in the adopted Local Plan.

**2. Monitoring results overview**

*Local Development Scheme*

- 2.1 Following an extensive period of evidence gathering, consultation and examination sessions the Authority was able to adopt a sound Local Plan on 29 August 2019. This process took longer than had been anticipated in the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which was due to the scheduling of the Examination and Hearing sessions by the Planning Inspectorate. Both of these matters are outside the direct control of the Authority. However, the timetable for the production of the Local Plan was one of the matters assessed as part of the independent Examination and the Inspectors were content that the timetable for Plan-production has been in general conformity with the published LDS.

*Policy performance*

- 2.2 In preparing the new Local Plan Members will be aware that many of the policies in the Authority's Core Strategy continued to perform effectively, were fit for purpose and aligned with national policy, and therefore were incorporated into the Local Plan broadly unchanged. Initial analysis of the performance of the planning policies covering the National Park during the monitoring period indicates that they are generally performing well and the Authority continues to achieve the objectives set out in the Core Strategy and the Local Plan.

- 2.3 There are also some notable differences between the Core Strategy and Local Plan including a new policy on landscape, and the inclusion of a small number of housing site allocations. Future monitoring reports will continue to assess the performance of these policies, and identify any relevant trends. Early indications are that the new policy on landscape character (SP7) has been a useful addition to the local planning policies covering the National Park.
- 2.4 The AMR highlights that there was 777m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace for a range of business and industrial uses completed during this period, with extant permissions available for a further 1,863m<sup>2</sup> of B1-B8 uses. In addition, 3 separate small office units were lost to residential uses due to the implementation of permitted development rights creating three dwellings.
- 2.5 With regard to housing, there were 50 dwellings completed in this monitoring period (compared to 25 completions the previous year). This annual fluctuation reflects the windfall nature of housing completions in the National Park, but highlights that there remains a healthy delivery of windfall sites which will in due course be supplemented by the Local Plan housing site allocations. Analysis of housing completions since 2006 to the present has resulted in an average figure of 25 net new houses completed each year, which represents a healthy supply against the requirements of the Core Strategy and Local Plan. The Local Plan (2019) includes a windfall allowance of 20 dwellings per annum, which was supported by the Local Plan Inspectors based on the evidence presented at examination. This year's monitoring data supports the inclusion of this allowance and confirms that windfall development within the Park remains healthy.
- 2.6 In addition, given the stock of sites with extant planning permission for 93 dwellings, the Authority maintains in excess of a five-year supply of housing sites. This puts the Authority in a strong position to defend against any applications for speculative housing developments that do not accord with the policy framework in the National Park.

### **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 liaised with a range of organisations including New Forest District Council on the emerging review of their planning policies. Comments were also made on the draft plans and strategies of other authorities. Officers continue to liaise with officers from other National Parks, and other local planning authorities in Hampshire, to share examples of good practice and facilitate joint commissioning of evidence where possible.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**To note the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2020, as attached at Annex 1.**

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**Papers:** Cover report  
Annex 1 – Annual Monitoring Report 2020

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No impacts have been identified.