

Report to Cabinet Member for:	Planning and Building Control	Date of Issue:	17 May 2022
		Date of Decision:	25 May 2022
Subject:	Authority Monitoring Report 2020-21		
Report of:	Chief Planning Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval of the Authority Monitoring Report for 2020-21 for publication.

Recommendation:

That **Cabinet Member** approves:

1. The Authority Monitoring Report for 2020-21 for publication.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To approve the Authority Monitoring Report for publication.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None.

The publication of an Authority Monitoring Report is a legal requirement.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None directly from this report

(B) Capital Costs

None directly from this report

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
None	
Legal Implications:	
Pursuant to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 [as amended], every local planning authority is required to prepare, at least annually, a public report which sets out progress with the preparation and implementation of the Local Plan.	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The Authority Monitoring Report only reports on progress on policies, and doesn't, in itself, set out policies that would have an impact on climate change.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: provides the evidence and timetable to enable communities to engage with the planning process.
Commission, broker and provide core services: not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: not applicable
Greater income for social investment: not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6791/22) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4991/22) have been consulted and have no comments on the report

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

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Appendices:

2020/21 Annual Monitoring Report

Background Papers:

None.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Local planning authorities must publish information, at least annually, through an Authority Monitoring Report [AMR] that shows progress with Local Plan preparation; reports any activity relating to the duty to cooperate; and shows how the implementation of policies in the Local Plan is progressing. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to report as frequently as possible on planning matters to communities. This is important to enable communities and interested parties to be aware of progress. Local planning authorities can also use the AMR to provide up-to-date information on the implementation of any neighbourhood plans that have been made, and to determine whether there is a need to undertake a partial or full review of the Local Plan.

2. 2020-21 Authority Monitoring Report

- 2.1 This AMR covers the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. It is evident that a number of trends are beginning to become established as the plan period progresses. The key messages coming from this year's AMR include:

Direct Impact Indicators

- the Council can demonstrate a 5.1 year supply of housing land
- During 2020/21 there were 730 net additional dwellings in Sefton
- As of 31 March 2021, there have been 922 homes completed on the Local Plan housing allocations, an increase of 278 in the past year.
- The total area of land and premises lost from employment to other uses was 0.452ha, which is significantly less than the 1.49ha lost in 2019/20, 5.89ha lost in 2018/19, 10.72ha lost in 2016/17
- During 2020/21 there was a total of 5,271m² of floorspace developed for employment use. This is up from 3,705m² the previous year but is still well below the peak of 26,662m² in 2014/15.
- During 2020/21 there were 60 approvals for town centre uses in Sefton. 30 of these were outside either a designated centre or edge of centre site.
- During 2020/21 there were 201 affordable homes completed. This is likely to increase significantly as a number of large housing sites are currently under construction.
- During 2020/21 there was one schemes for older people approved, a 90 unit extra care facility in Bootle.
- There were two schemes that were required to provide for 20% of the homes as M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard. One met that requirement, the other marginally below.
- As at 30 October 2021 there is a total of 195 individuals on the Council's Sefton Build register list.
- During 2020/21 there were 15 applications for HMOs that were assessed. 5 of the applications were granted, 10 applications were refused.
- The Council can demonstrate a five-year of permanent traveller pitches

Indirect Impact Indicators

- The most recently published data (2019) shows that there are 103,000 jobs in Sefton. The jobs density in Sefton of 0.63 (i.e. the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64) remains much lower than both the north-west (0.86) and national average (0.87).
- The unemployment rate in Sefton from April 2020 to March 2021 stood at 3.9% which is higher than 3% reported over the same period the previous year. However, this is lower than the regional and national average. The increase during this period is likely explained by measures to combat Covid-19.
- At 31st March 2021 the number of active applicants on the Sefton Housing Register was 4,005, a decrease from 5,290 the previous year.
- The most recent estimate of the resident population in Sefton (2019) is 275,899. By 2030 Sefton's population is projected to increase to 280,000.
- The recently published 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that 30.49% of Sefton's population lives within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. This is an increase since 2015 when 25.7% of Sefton's population were in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- In 2019 (from data published June 2021) the total amount of CO2 emissions for Sefton was 1,194.6kt. This continues an overall downward trend in the total amount of CO2 emissions produced by Sefton.
- The vacant home rate in Sefton at October 2021 was 4.2%. The long-term vacancy rate (i.e. vacant 6 months+) stands at 2.6%.

2.2 Work will begin on assessing the data for 2021/22 soon after 31st March 2022 and it is expected that the next AMR will be available before the end of the 2022.