

Local Plan

Bolton's Allocations Plan Examination

Matters and Issues

Matter 9: Monitoring

Shaping the future of Bolton

Matter 9: Monitoring

Issue

Whether the Allocations Plan would be able to be monitored more effectively.

Questions

- 1.1 **What are the intended mechanisms and timescales for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policies and proposals in the Allocations Plan? How does it relate to the monitoring of the Core Strategy?**
 - 1.1.1 The annually published Authority Monitoring Report measures the performance of each Local Plan indicator and target. The AMR already monitors Core Strategy indicators and targets. It will also monitor the additional targets and indicators from the Allocations Plan, once it is adopted. This will give a clear indication of the implementation and effectiveness of each policy and proposal.
 - 1.1.2 The Allocations Plan follows the strategic planning approach of Bolton's Core Strategy, adopted by the Council in 2011. The Allocations Plan sets out how the Core Strategy strategic policies will be spatially implemented and therefore its monitoring is integrated with Core Strategy monitoring. For example, progress on the delivery of housing sites identified in the Allocations Plan will be monitored through the indicators of Core Strategy Policy SC1 on housing. The policies map indicates which allocations of land are linked to which Core Strategy policy.
 - 1.1.3 The Allocations Plan contains a number of written policies and each of these includes a table, showing key delivery items and how delivery will be measured, including indicators and targets. This is the same approach as in the Core Strategy. In some cases monitoring is subsumed within Core Strategy monitoring: in others there are new indicators and targets. The following two tables show how these two sets of policies are monitored.
 - 1.1.4 The table below show policies where the targets and indicators are already covered by monitoring of the Core Strategy.

Allocations Plan Policy	Core Strategy Policy	Core Strategy Measuring Delivery
P6AP – Mixed Use Development	There is no specific target for this policy, but there are overall targets for employment land (P1) and Housing (SC1)	<p>SC1 – Net additional dwellings for the current year (694 per year)</p> <p>SC1 – Net additional dwellings total subdivided into Bolton town centre, renewal areas, Horwich Loco Works and outer areas.</p> <p>SC1 – Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (80%).</p> <p>SC1 – Percentage of new dwellings completed at more than 30 dwellings per hectare (gross). Affordable housing completions (243 per year).</p> <p>P1 – Amount of employment land developed (8ha annually on average).</p> <p>P1 – Employment land supply (50ha to be available at any one time).</p> <p>P1 – Losses of employment land to other uses.</p>
P7AP – Retail Warehouse Parks	Indicators and targets for policy P7AP are subsumed within the indicators and targets for Core Strategy policy P2.	<p>P2 – Total amount of comparison retail floor space developed (65,000 square metres of additional floorspace in each five year period after 2016.)</p> <p>P2 – Amount of retail floor space completed in, and out of, defined centres.</p> <p>P2 - Bolton and Farnworth town centres prime yield data.</p>
P9AP – Strategic Route Network	Indicators and targets for policy P9AP are subsumed within the indicators and targets for Core Strategy policy P5.	P5 – Proportion of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of areas of employment (100%).
CG8AP - Decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy development locations	Indicators and targets for policy CG8AP build upon indicators and targets for Core Strategy policy CG2.	CG2 – Per capita change in CO2 emissions in Bolton

1.1.5 The Allocations Plan also contains some policies that expand on the current Core Strategy policies, and require further monitoring than the Core Strategy indicators, and some that are not subsumed within Core Strategy policies, although they still meet Core Strategy objectives. These policies are to be used in conjunction with the Proposals Map for the Borough and will be monitored annually:

Allocations Plan Policy	Indicators (and targets)	Measuring Delivery
	Completion of facilities (by 2016)	The car park at Horwich Parkway station is now complete
Public Rights of Way	Number of rights of way lost to development (zero)	Annually monitor public rights of way records
CG5AP School Playing Fields	Expansion of CG1- Number of planning applications on school playing fields approved contrary to the policy (zero)	Annually monitor planning applications on playing fields
CG6AP Other Protected Open Land	Expansion of CG1 - Number of planning applications on Protected Open Land approved contrary to the policy (zero)	Annually monitor planning applications on Protected Open Land
CG7AP Green Belt	Expansion of CG1 - Number of planning applications on Green Belt approved contrary to the policy (zero)	Annually monitor planning applications on Green Belt

2.1 Is it sufficiently clear how the Allocations Plan itself will be monitored?

- 2.1.1 The Authority Monitoring Report annually monitors and updates all Local Plan targets and indicators, including those from the Allocations Plan once it is adopted. As the Allocations Plan identifies the sites to implement the Core Strategy objectives, the policies are monitored for the Local Plan as a whole, as opposed to each Development Plan Document being separately monitored. The AMR clearly states how the key themes in the report are those established through the Core Strategy and the published Allocations Plan.
- 2.1.2 Each policy in the submitted Allocations Plan includes a 'key delivery items' table and a 'measuring delivery' section, which shows how the delivery of the policy will be monitored. The measuring delivery table reveals the Core Strategy Objectives that are met through the policy, the indicators and targets, and the flexibility and phasing of the policy. The key delivery items section demonstrates how the delivery of the policy will be monitored over an on-going time-frame. This is an identical approach to that taken in the Core Strategy.

There is no separate section in the Allocations Plan on monitoring. If it is considered helpful, the Council is willing to make modifications to insert an additional chapter to explain how the Allocations Plan, along with other Local Plan policy targets and indicators, will be monitored annually through the AMR.

3.1 How could specific targets and indicators be added to ensure effective monitoring?

- 3.1.1 The Council believes that the holistic approach of monitoring all the targets and indicators specified in the Core Strategy and published Allocations Plan on an annual basis is sufficient to ensure effective monitoring of the whole Local Plan, including the Allocations Plan. It does not consider that additional targets and indicators are necessary. However it is willing to consider suggestions for further targets and indicators.

3.1.2 Once the Allocations Plan is adopted, the Council will provide annual updates on the progress of allocated sites for housing, employment and mixed-use sites. This information will include updated yields for housing, remaining developable area space on the sites and revised planning permission history. This will give a clear indication on the performance of the Local Plan policies, including the Allocations Plan and will demonstrate how the Allocations Plan will implement Core Strategy policies.

4.1 What baseline data could be added/what is available?

4.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Section 6, (document) produced in July 2011 sets out a range of baseline contextual information. This information is brought up to date, as available and appropriate, through the Authority Monitoring Report. This baseline data will give a robust basis for continuing the monitoring of the Local Plan, but the Council will be willing to consider the addition of further baseline data if suggested.