

Greater Norwich Local Plan Hearing Statement Matter 16 Monitoring

Introduction

This Hearing Statement has been produced by Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council as the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP).

The Document Library for the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) Examination and further information can be found on the GNLP Examination website:

www.gnlp.org.uk

The Councils have responded to each question directly in the body of the Hearing Statement.

Is the Monitoring Framework set out in Appendix 3 of the Plan effective in delivering the policy requirements during the Plan period? In particular:

Question 1

Are the proposed indicators and targets appropriate and measurable? Are they clearly time related such that they can be monitored during the Plan period rather than at the end of it? Are they clearly expressed as targets rather than objectives? Are any others necessary for monitoring to ensure soundness of the Plan?

Response to question 1

1. Yes, the targets are considered to be appropriate. As each indicator has been written so it consists of a number or percentage which will change annually, and thus is a target to meet year-on-year. The aim of which is to provide elected members with an annual monitoring report which gives a real-time 'dashboard' of how the Greater Norwich area is performing in planning policy terms.
2. At the present time, no modifications are thought to be necessary to the monitoring framework. But the Partnership remains open to modifications if the inspectors deem them necessary.

Question 2

Does the monitoring framework clearly set out what actions will be taken if targets and policies are not being achieved?

Response to question 2

3. Some actions are implicit from how the indicators are set; for instance, like the NPPF, the monitoring framework puts an emphasis on the timely delivery of sites and maintaining a five-year land supply. But the specific actions that would flow from any failure to meet targets are subject to the decision-making of elected members. This the Partnership believes in the correct approach, because decisions should be taken in 'real-time' using the best up-to-date information available to elected members.
4. In preparing the indicators, the Partnership chose datasets which could be assembled easily, using where possible data held by the authorities and which are updated annually. The rational here is to provide elected members with informative data on which they can take timely decisions, and take advantage of opportunities that may present themselves. For instance, this may mean taking advantage of opportunities presented by new planning reforms, or various other options – such as reviewing and writing area action plans, development management policies, supplementary planning documents, as well as reviewing the GNLP in part or in full.

Question 3

Is the Monitoring Framework effective in supporting the process of reviewing the Local Plan to assess whether it will need updating at least once every five years in accordance with paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework?

Response to question 3

5. The Partnership is confident in the monitoring framework it has set. Believing that 49 individual indicators is ample to understanding how changing circumstances may affect Greater Norwich in the future. These indicators are wide-ranging in scope too, and they cover all the plan's objectives – for communities, economy, environment, homes, infrastructure, and delivery.
6. Of the indicators set those under the objective of 'delivery' are especially relevant for assessing when the plan needs updating. As under this theme are various indicators for tracking how development schemes are progressing through the planning system to becoming completed developments and maintaining a five-year land supply.