

7 MONITORING

Introduction

- 7.0 This chapter summarises the implementation mechanisms available to the Council, alone or in conjunction with others, relative to the Plan policies and proposals. It also indicates how the Council intends to monitor the impact of the Plan.

“Making it Happen”

- 7.1 To achieve the Plan aims the highest priority will be given to implementing the Policies and Proposals in the Plan. The Council will not be able to do this alone. The Plan provides a framework for the future development of the area but it relies on a partnership approach with the private sector, other public and voluntary sector agencies and, in particular, the local community, to achieve results.
- 7.2 Multi - agency arrangements are already in place in various parts of the district to encourage regeneration and promote these areas. These include the Stirling Initiative, the Stirling Partnership for Urban Renewal, the Rural Stirling Partnership for the area west of the M9 and the Smaller Urban Renewal Initiative for the Eastern Villages.
- 7.3 Elsewhere considerable scope exists for the various agencies such as the Local Enterprise Company (Forth Valley Enterprise), Scottish Homes and the Housing Associations, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the local Tourist Board to work together to realise the district’s considerable potential and to provide a very high quality of living and working environment.
- 7.4 Each of the Town and Village Plans provides details of all Proposals in the area, including mechanisms for implementation, if known. The Council’s own Community Environment and Shop-front Grants Schemes and Village Enhancement Schemes, together with those of other agencies, will assist. Ultimately, however, much will depend on the private sector and on its willingness to invest in the area to the benefit of the community at large.
- 7.5 To ensure that the aims and objectives are being met and opportunities grasped, the Plan will be subject to very rigorous monitoring and regular review. Only by this means will it remain up to date and relevant to the needs of the area and its citizens.

Local Plan Monitoring

- 7.6 The policies and proposals contained within this document are designed to encourage or to counter currently perceived trends which have been described in the accompanying text. It is important to ensure that the plan maintains its relevance by addressing current and emerging land use and environmental issues, and that it contains robust policies for the promotion and control of development. These policies and proposals will give people concerned with development in the Stirling Council area - residents, amenity groups, developers, business investors, service and infrastructure providers - some certainty about the kinds of development that will and will not be permitted. Policies which are no longer relevant will mislead investment decisions, cause needless procedural delays, and harm interests of developers, the public and Stirling Council. National Planning Policy Guideline 1 - *The Planning System* emphasises the importance of monitoring and review in this context :

“Consistent decision making, and policy monitoring and review on a regular basis, are essential if that confidence and degree of certainty are to be maintained.” (NPPG1 - para 25)

PAN 49 on Local planning gives further guidance on monitoring. It suggests that Planning Authorities should:

- Undertake systematic monitoring
- Review the currency of plans at least every 2 years

- Alter, replace or confirm that plans are still relevant at no more than 5 year intervals
- Use expedited procedures for most alterations

7.7 Monitoring changes, development pressures, priorities and reviewing the relationships between them will provide information with which to judge whether an alteration is required. To this end, reference will need to be made to changes in Structure Plan Strategy; National Planning Policy Guidance and law; new problems and development issues; new national issues; performance of policies and proposals; and spending programmes of agencies who have an impact on development.

This section outlines the framework which will be set in place for the monitoring and review of the Local Plan.

Framework

7.8 *Policy Aims and Objectives Report*

Initially, a report will be produced which lists the policies contained in the Local Plan. This report will be in the form of a table which will identify the following :

- (a) The aims and objectives of each policy
- (b) Possible data sources and methods which could be used for indicators
- (c) The ease with which the policy can be monitored

7.9 *Annual Monitoring Report*

An annual Local Plan monitoring report will be produced, the structure of which will be determined by the Policy Aims and Objectives report. The Policy Aims and Objectives report will identify which issues to include in the annual report; and any changes which will need to be made to enable policies to be monitored.

The annual report will be split into 4 sections :

- 1 A summary of the findings from the policy aims and objectives report
- 2 Monitoring social, economic and environmental issues
- 3 Monitoring of issues for individual policies
- 4 Conclusions and recommendations

Section 1 : Summary of Policy Aims and Objectives Report

This section will contain a summary of the major issues which emerge from the Policy Aims and Objectives report. This will include a prioritisation of the issues. It will identify which issues are to be included in the annual monitoring report. It will also identify which policies may prove difficult to monitor and why.

Section 2 : Broad Indicators

This section will outline the major issues facing the district. A number of indicators will be developed that will reflect these issues. For each indicator it will be stated whether, compared to previous periods, the trend has accelerated, decelerated or reversed.

The impact of national trends and issues will come from a variety of sources:

- A summary of changes and additions to National Planning Policy Guidelines.
- A summary of changes and additions to Planning Advice Notes.
- A summary of broad social, economic, and environmental issues at a national level from a variety of sources such as Social Trends (Office for National Statistics), NOMIS (unemployment trends), and GRO Scotland (population trends).

- Specific research that has taken place at local level through Stirling Council and other agencies.
- Analysis of planning applications to identify:
 - Areas where there is a higher or lower level of activity than expected.
 - Pressure on policy from a high level of departures.
 - Unsuccessful appeal decisions.

Section 3 : Monitoring of Individual Policies and Proposals

The monitoring of individual policies and proposals will involve the following areas of measurement :

- (a) Whether the required resources for implementation are available;
- (b) Whether the processes for implementation are operating as expected;
- (c) What outputs are forthcoming;
- (d) Whether the intended beneficiaries of policies and proposals are the actual recipients of change.

This monitoring process will utilise indicators from existing data sources (including analysis of planning applications received, approved departures, and unsuccessful appeals) as well as case studies or new survey work. The nature of the issues may require data which is specialised and/or highly localised in nature. Such data may prove difficult to obtain. This raises a number of problems :

- (a) Because of time and resource constraints, it will not be possible to monitor all the issues. It will be necessary to prioritise which issues are to be monitored.
- (b) Information will not be available with which to measure some issues. Where this is the case, recommendations will be made as to how the measurement of those issues is to be tackled.
- (c) The information required to monitor some issues may be difficult to obtain. If additional resources are required, these will need to be prioritised.

Section 4 : Conclusions and Recommendations

This section will contain:

- (a) A summary of general trends from broad indicators;
- (b) A summary of main findings from monitoring of issues relating to individual policies;
- (c) Recommendations of changes/extensions to particular policy issues;
- (d) Changes to policies which cannot be monitored.

The annual monitoring report will be published and comment will be invited from interested parties. The report will feed back into the process of reviewing Local Plan Policies.

