

MATTER 9

Submitted 5 September 2022

Matter 9: Implementation and Monitoring

Issue: Does the Plan have a clear and effective framework for monitoring the implementation of the policies?

9.1 Do the Plans contain an adequate framework for monitoring the implementation of the Plans' policies? Are the monitoring indicators, targets, triggers, and actions sufficiently precise to be effective? Is it clear what action will be taken if targets are not met?

Lancaster City Council Response

The adopted Local Plan (29 July 2020) is supported by a separate monitoring framework (in Appendix F of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD). This sets out the sub-objectives of the Plan and identifies those policies through which the sub-objectives will be delivered. A number of indicators are then identified detailing how the council monitor delivery of the sub-objectives and the corresponding policies.

Indicators were selected based on their appropriateness for gauging the effectiveness of Local Plan policies and the availability of data. Targets are identified for each indicator. Continued monitoring of the targets allows the council to report on the extent to which objectives are being met. The targets are considered to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time based) and provide an appropriate framework for monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan.

The framework also identifies a series of trigger points for each sub-objective. These describe the situation through which monitoring of the identified indicators has reported a continued failure to deliver the identified targets and where the delivery of the Local Plan is in jeopardy.

Where monitoring reveals that the trigger points have been activated, appropriate action will need be taken by the council to ensure implementation of the plan and avoid unintended consequences. Proposed action measures are included within the Monitoring Framework. This includes the need to work with identified partners to ensure delivery, preparation of additional guidance and where necessary the potential for a review of the Plan. The council is confident that the actions identified

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are sufficiently precise to be effective and clearly identify what measures will be taken where delivery is not occurring as anticipated.

The monitoring framework has been amended to allow the revisions to the Local Plan to be monitored. This includes monitoring of new policies. Where necessary, additional indicators, targets and actions have been identified to ensure that the impacts of the Local Plan review can be monitored.

The council are confident that the revised framework provides a robust approach to monitoring the delivery of the Local Plan, and simply extends the same approach taken for the adopted Local Plan which was found Sound. Indicators have been selected which clearly relate to the implementation and delivery of policies.

Monitoring will be incorporated into forthcoming Authority Monitoring Reports which are reported annually. This provides a robust process of reporting and will allow the council to assess the implementation of the Plan. The inclusion of trigger points ensures that the council can take action where necessary.

The monitoring framework will be kept under review as part of the authority monitoring process. This will allow for changes to be made should it prove to be necessary.