

2 Key Findings

2.1 This chapter sets out the key findings of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2008-9. The results are presented and discussed in more detail in Section 5.

Progress on the Local Development Framework

- Evidence base: significant progress on several key areas including on transport, landscape assessment and affordable housing.
- Core Strategy: progress on preparing the evidence base and consultation on “reasonable alternatives for directions of growth and strategic sites” (September – November 2008).
- Canalside: commencement of work on a Supplementary Planning Document for this site.

Business Development and Town Centres

- 42,961m² (gross) of business development (i.e. offices, industry or storage and distribution) was completed in Cherwell during 2008-9 (20,036m² net). 42% of this floorspace was on previously developed land.
- 1546m² (gross) of 'town centre uses' (i.e. shops, financial and professional services, offices and leisure) was completed in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington centres. However there has been a net loss of these 'town centre uses' in town centres to other uses including restaurants/ takeaways, drinking establishments, residential, leisure and other uses.
- Across the district, there has been 1.77 hectares of employment land lost to other uses, including on land identified in the Employment Land Review.
- Total employment land availability in Cherwell is now 124.5 hectares

Housing

- The South East Plan was published in May 2009. It sets a new housing requirement for the district of 670 dwellings per annum, compared to the former Structure Plan requirement of 623;
- Housing completions for 08/09 were 426 and are expected to remain low in 09/10 and 10/11 as economic recovery occurs and before completions are recorded on new strategic, and other major, housing sites;
- Since 1 April 2006, the start of the plan period of the South East Plan, total net housing completions have been 1,734. This is 276 dwellings less than the three year requirement of 2,010 and, in effect, increases South East Plan requirements to 686 per annum over the remainder of the plan period to 2026;
- Total existing housing land supply from 2006-2026 is estimated to be 7,580 dwellings, leaving 5,820 dwellings to be planned for through the LDF;
- The district has 4.0 years supply of deliverable housing land over the period 2009-2014 rising to 4.5 years from 2010 to 2015;
- Net affordable housing completions in 08/09 were 87, compared to the minimum average annual target of 100 dwellings set by the Housing Strategy. Gross completions (i.e. including acquisitions and not allowing for losses) were 122. The total net supply since 2001 is now 816, an average of 102 per annum;
- The number of demarked pitches available to Gypsies and Travellers has fallen from 48 to 39.

Environmental Quality

- 2 planning applications have been granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood risk grounds, although their concerns were resolved through the imposition of planning conditions

- 13 renewable energy schemes have been permitted in 2008-9, an increase from 8 schemes in 2007-8.
- There are no open spaces in the district managed to Green Flag Award standard.
- There has been a decrease of 4 hectares in the area of Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as County Wildlife Sites) within Cherwell due to areas no longer meeting the qualifying criteria for Local Wildlife Sites and subsequently being 'de-selected'
- There has also been a decrease in the 'priority species' present within Cherwell but an increase in the 'priority habitats', due mainly to new types of habitats being added to the priority list rather than new habitat creation. Priority species and habitats are derived from the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and are a priority for biodiversity and conservation action.

Car Parking and Transport

- 14 out of 18 applicable planning permissions provided car parking in accordance with the maximum parking standards; 4 exceeded the maximum standards

2.2 The next chapter describes the monitoring framework and the indicators used to obtain the results provided within this report.