

## **9. Monitoring the Effects of the SAD and AAP**

### **9.1 Current Monitoring Arrangements**

The Council already monitors the effects of implementing existing local plan policies through the Authorities' Monitoring Reports (AMRs) which are published annually on the Council website. These reports measure the extent to which the main requirements in the BCCS and UDP policies are being met, for example, whether the targets for new housing, employment and 'town centre' development are being achieved, and whether impacts on environmental assets are being effectively controlled.

Other monitoring arrangements are also in place at a sub-national level to monitor delivery of new housing, employment and 'town centre' development, and to monitor production of aggregate minerals, across the West Midlands. The data gathered through these arrangements contributes towards local monitoring reported through the AMRs.

The SAD and AAP identify the indicators and targets that will be used to monitor the extent to which the Policies are being implemented and the site allocations identified are being delivered, following adoption. It is proposed that where possible, the same indicators used to measure implementation of the BCCS and UDP policies will be used to measure implementation of the SAD and AAP Policies, as many of them rely on common data sets to measure performance.

For example, SAD Monitoring Indicator HC1a (Number of additional dwellings completed (net)) corresponds to BCCS Monitoring Indicator COI HOU1a, SAD Monitoring Indicator IND1a (Employment Land Completions by Local Authority (ha) corresponds to BCCS Monitoring Indicators LOI EMP1a and DEL2b, and AAP Monitoring Indicator AAPLV5.1 (the proportion of planning permissions granted in accordance with Conservation / Historic Environment Section or Advisor recommendations) corresponds to BCCS Monitoring Indicator LOI ENV2.

However, it has not been possible to match most of the AAP indicators to BCCS indicators, as they are specific to the delivery of the policies for specific sites or areas within the Town Centre, which are not identified for development in the BCCS as it is a high level plan.

## 9.2 Limitations of Monitoring

The resources available within the Council for monitoring the effects of local plans are limited. Chapter 4 above has outlined the difficulties encountered in gathering evidence for the SA and for plan preparation because of this. The Council is entirely reliant on its own staff resources to monitor the effects of the BCCS and UDP, which involves gathering the data sets needed to monitor these effects (for example, new planning permissions and developments implemented), collation of the information, and preparation of AMRs.

Monitoring also depends on the data available, and some effects cannot be monitored except at a site-specific level, through detailed arrangements that may have to be put into place as a condition of the planning permission (for example, monitoring of leachate and gas from landfill sites). Monitoring of some effects also relies on data sets produced by external organisations, which can be difficult to interrogate and interpret (see Chapter 4).

It likely that the resources available for monitoring within Walsall Council will be reduced in future, which may mean that difficult choices have to be made about what is monitored and what is not. It cannot be taken for granted that all of the data sets currently available will continue to be collected over the remainder of the plan period.

## 9.3 Significant Effects Indicators – SAD

No further monitoring indicators have been identified, as the monitoring indicators identified in the SAD are considered to be sufficient to measure the environmental, economic and social effects of the plan, including any 'significant' harmful effects likely to arise. The potential 'significant' effects of SAD Policies M8 and M9 identified in the SA will be monitored through the following existing indicators:

- **EN1 (BCCS Indicator LOI ENV1)** – Net reduction in the area of designated nature conservation sites through development;
- **M7a (BCCS Indicators LOI MIN3 and LOI MIN5)** – Percentage of applications for brick clay extraction or restoration of former brick clay extraction sites which satisfy the general requirements and criteria in BCCS Policies MIN3 and MIN5 and the specific requirements in SAD Policies M7 and M8; and

- **M9a (BCCS Indicators LOI MIN4 and LOI MIN5)** – Percentage of applications for opencast coal and fireclay extraction (including applications for new conditions) which satisfy the general requirements and criteria in BCCS Policies MIN4 and MIN5 and specific requirements in SAD Policy M9.

#### **9.4 Significant Effects Indicators – AAP**

No further monitoring indicators have been identified, as the monitoring indicators identified in the AAP are considered to be sufficient to measure the environmental, economic and social effects of the plan.