



Authority Monitoring Report 2019/2020

CONTENTS

This Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is split into 6 main chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Housing
3. Economic
4. Transport
5. The natural and built environment
6. Community, leisure and tourism

INTRODUCTION

This Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) has a number of functions which include:

- Reviewing progress of the council's Local Plans
- Recording Consultation and Duty to Co-operate Events
- Reporting on Neighbourhood Planning
- Providing borough-wide planning statistics on housing, employment, community, environment and transport.

The Localism Act 2011 withdrew guidance on local plan monitoring, allowing councils to choose which targets, indicators and information to include in AMRs, as long as they are in line with the relevant UK and EU legislation. However, as Ashford has a recently adopted Local Plan, it is considered appropriate to monitor the targets set to measure the effectiveness of the adopted policies. The Regulations now state that local planning authorities must publish the information direct to the public at least yearly in the interests of transparency and accountability. It also requires monitoring information to be made available online and in council offices as soon as available to the council, rather than waiting to report annually. To achieve this we separate the AMR into sections and publicise information on our website as soon as the information is available.

Time period covered by this AMR

The status and progress of the policy documents mentioned in this chapter are relevant as of January 2021. For up-to-date information about the status of local planning documents, please visit <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-policy>

In the succeeding chapters of this report, the data collected refers to the monitoring year of 2019/2020, which ran from 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020 inclusive.

Local Development Scheme

The council is required to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The LDS is a project plan that sets out the timetable for the production of new or revised Development Plan Documents which will form the Council's Local Development Plan. The existing LDS sets out a planning work programme for the council over

a two year period. The proposed timetable and milestones contained within the LDS are reviewed through this report.

The current LDS was adopted in March 2019 and can be viewed at:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-development-scheme/>

Local Plan Policies Map

We are required to produce an adopted policies map in our Local Plan documents, showing the location of proposals in all current Adopted Development Plan Documents on an ordnance survey base map. Please follow the link here to view the map

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-policies-map/>

It reflects the most up-to-date spatial plan for the borough and is continually being updated as new policies are adopted.

Statement of Community Involvement

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in March 2020. The SCI sets out how the planning department intends to achieve community involvement, public participation and cooperation in all planning matters, including the preparation of local development documents, supplementary planning documents and arrangements for consultation on planning applications.

The current SCI was adopted in March 2020 and can be viewed at:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-development/planning-policy/public-consultation/>

Current adopted Development Plan Documents

The development plan for the borough sets out the strategic priorities for development. These include both land allocations and policies covering issues such as housing, employment, community, environment and heritage. These planning policies are used by the council when determining planning applications or enforcing unauthorised development.

The Ashford Local Plan 2030 was adopted by full Council on 21 February 2019. The Ashford Local Plan 2030 supersedes the saved policies in the Ashford Local Plan (2000), Ashford Core Strategy (2008), Ashford Town Centre Action Area Plan (2010), the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD (2010) and the Urban Sites and Infrastructure DPD (2012). The Local Plan 2030, alongside the background and evidence base documents, can be viewed here:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan>

As of January 2021, the development plan for the borough comprises the

- Ashford Local Plan 2030 (adopted February 2019),
- the Chilmington Green AAP (2013),
- the Wye Neighbourhood Plan (2016),

- the Pluckley Neighbourhood Plan (2017),
- the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan (2019),
- the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016) and the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Early Partial Review.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDS) support the DPDs. All matters covered in SPDS must relate to policies or proposals in the Development Plan but add a more detailed level of advice and guidance.

SPDs are also a material consideration when determining planning applications and provide more detailed guidance into the interpretation and/or implementation of adopted policies.

The current supplementary planning documents for the Borough are:

- Affordable Housing SPD (February 2009)
- Landscape Character SPD (April 2011)
- Residential Parking SPD (October 2010)
- Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (April 2012)
- Sustainable Drainage SPD (October 2010)
- Residential Space and Layout SPD (October 2011) Only external standards apply following adoption of Nationally Described Space Standards - Internal
- Public Green Spaces and Water Environment SPD (July 2012)
- Dark Skies SPD (July 2014)
- Stables, Arenas and other horse related development SPD (October 2014)
- Chilmington Green Design Code SPD (2016)
- Fibre to the Premises SPD (October 2020)

Please note that the council also provides informal design guidance notes with regard to residential layouts, wheeled bins and screening containers. All can be viewed here:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/other-planning-guidance/>

Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

We are committed to meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community within the borough, in the same way as the housing needs of the settled community are planned for. National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) also requires that local planning authorities identify deliverable sites for travellers.

The [adopted Local Plan 2030](#) proposed a dual approach to Traveller site/pitch provision through some site allocation and topic policies. However, this does not meet all the needs identified. In order to meet the outstanding site and pitch needs, we are in the process of preparing a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Local Plan to address the shortfall.

An Options consultation for the Local Plan was held in early 2020. This consultation asked for comments on specific options for how the pitch need should be determined and delivered and included details on the site selection assessment process.

The next stage of the plan production will include draft policies and site allocations and is expected to be available for public consultation in 2021.

Neighbourhood Plans

Many of the borough's parishes are undertaking the neighbourhood planning process. There are currently three adopted (or 'made') Neighbourhood plans that form part of the development plan for the borough; Pluckley, Rolvenden and Wye. Other designated neighbourhood plan areas are currently progressing through the regulation stages of neighbourhood planning. As of January 2021, the status of these plans is expressed below:

Area	Progress made
Aldington and Bonnington	Neighbourhood area designation made in November 2019. The plan is in its early stages.
Bethersden	Bethersden Neighbourhood Plan Group are no longer continuing with the Neighbourhood Plan. The parish remains designated.
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	The Neighbourhood Plan was formally submitted to Ashford Borough Council and is currently undergoing examination.
Charing	The parish consulted on the pre-submission version of their plan in February 2020.
Egerton	The parish consulted on the pre-submission version of their plan in September 2020.
Hothfield	Neighbourhood area designation made in March 2016.
Tenterden	The plan is in its early stages after a neighbourhood area designation was made in December 2018.
Smarden	Neighbourhood area designation made in October 2019. The plan is in its early stages.

For the most up-to-date neighbourhood planning information, please visit <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans>.