**Blaby District Council** 

Authority Monitoring Report

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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# **Executive Summary**

Development	Indicator (2023/24 Monitoring Period)	Target
Total Dwellings	422	380
Delivered		
PUA completions	230	250
Non PUA Completions	192	130
Affordable Dwellings	131	95
% Affordable Dwellings	31%	25%
Completions on	167	315 (from 2021/22)
Lubbesthorpe SUE		
Employment Land	Oha	2.96ha (average per
Delivered		annum)

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is Blaby District Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. It provides an update on progress with the preparation of planning policy documents (including the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents) and includes monitoring information to help assess the progress and effectiveness of key policies in our Development Plan made up of the Local Plan Core Strategy (2013) and the Local Plan Delivery DPD (2019).
- 1.2 This AMR sets out information in the following order:
  - Planning Policy Progress
  - Housing Land Supply
  - Employment Land
  - Infrastructure
- 1.3 In accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requirements, this AMR also contains updates on activity during the 2023/2024 monitoring period in relation to Neighbourhood Planning and the Duty to Cooperate. Further details are set out on the Planning Policy Progress section.

# 2.0 Planning Policy Progress

## The Local Development Scheme

2.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan for preparing new planning policy documents. The LDS which applied during the policy period was published in 2020. This indicated an intention to undertake a Pre-submission Consultation on the Emerging Plan in March 2022, with Submission following in August 2022. Examination was expected to commence in December 2022 with Adoption expected in August 2023. It was clear that progress against this timetable had slipped within the monitoring period, largely due to delays in assembling the necessary sub-regional evidence required to underpin the emerging plan.

2.2 A new Local Development Scheme (LDS 2023) was published in July 2023. This can be viewed on the Councils website <u>here</u><sup>1</sup> This revised LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation of the emerging Local Plan taking account of the time required to complete sub regional evidence gathering. The Council expected to Adopt its Local Plan in March 2026. A Regulation 19 consultation is expected to commence in Summer 2025.

## Local Plan Core Strategy (2013)

2.3 This document, adopted by the Council in February 2013, forms the strategic part of the Council's Local Plan. It sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and core policies for the spatial planning of the District up to 2029. The Plan is available to view on the Council's website <u>here</u>.

# The Local Plan Part 2 (LP2)

2.4 The Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) Development Plan Document (known as the 'Delivery DPD') was adopted by the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The Delivery DPD includes site allocations and development management policies. It sits alongside the adopted Core Strategy and these two documents form the development plan for the District that will be used as the starting point for decision-making in respect of submitted planning applications.

# Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- 2.5 The Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document has been produced by Blaby District Council to provide additional information to assist in the implementation of Policies CS7 and CS8 of the Blaby District Council Local Plan (Core Strategy). The primary objectives of the supplementary document are:
  - To guide the interpretation of policies CS7 and CS8 of the Blaby District Council Local Plan (Core Strategy);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Published July 2023

- To address local imbalances in both the market and affordable housing stock, and
- To optimise the provision of affordable housing to meet identified needs.
- 2.6 Work on a revised **Planning Obligations and Developer Contributions** SPD continued within the monitoring period to replace the Planning and Developer Contributions SPD adopted in 2010<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of this revised document to assemble, in a single document, the various requirements related to planning obligations for new built development in the District. The Council adopted the revised SPD in September 2024<sup>3</sup>

## **Neighbourhood Development Plans**

- 2.7 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) currently in production or made are as follows:
  - The Blaby Neighbourhood Plan: This NDP was made in February 2018 in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. During the referendum 94.9%, indicated that they wanted the District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Blaby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. The made plan is available to view <u>here</u>.
  - Glenfield Neighbourhood Plan: A referendum on the Glenfield Neighbourhood Plan was held on 23 November 2023. Following a positive referendum result, Blaby District Council voted to 'make' the Glenfield Neighbourhood Plan part of Blaby District's Development Plan. The made plan is available to view <u>here</u>.
  - Cosby Neighbourhood Plan: A referendum on the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan was held on 24 November 2022. Following a positive referendum result, Blaby District Council voted to 'make' the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan part of Blaby District's Development Plan. The made plan is available to view <u>here</u>.
  - Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan: Following Elmesthorpe Parish Council's decision to formally withdraw from the original Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Planning Obligations and Developer Contributions 2010 (blaby.gov.uk)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Planning Obligations and Developer Contributions 2024 (blaby.gov.uk)

the remaining ten Parishes were designated as a new Neighbourhood Area in January 2016. The Neighbourhood Area comprises the Parishes of: Aston Flamville, Croft, Huncote, Leicester Forest West, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Sharnford, Stoney Stanton, Thurlaston and Wigston Parva. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Planning Group. The Group comprises members of the local community and local Parish Councillors, with the support of Blaby District Council and consultants Plan-IT X, and under the direction of Sapcote Parish Council (the Qualifying Body for the Plan). A referendum on the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan was held on 6 May 2021 after a delay due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Following a positive referendum result, Blaby District Council decided to 'make' the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan was made on 17 June 2021.

Subsequently the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Planning Group have chosen to update the Neighbourhood Plan to reinstate Local Green Space designations in the parishes of Huncote, Sharnford, and Stoney Stanton. The proposed new Local Green Spaces are incorporated in Policy FV5 and the related policy maps. Other than consequential revisions, there were no further changes to the Neighbourhood Plan. Following public consultation and formal examination, the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan (2024) was made by Blaby District Council in January 2024. Information on the Fosse Villages can be found on the Council's <u>website</u>.

- Elmsthorpe Neighbourhood Plan. Elmesthorpe Parish Council was initially part of the group progressing the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan but formally withdrew from the Fosse Villages Plan. A map defining the extent of the Elmesthorpe Neighbourhood Area is available to download on the Council's <u>website</u>.
- A referendum on the Leicester Forest East Neighbourhood Plan was held on 30 June 2022. Following a positive referendum result, Blaby District Council voted to 'make' Lecester Forest East Neighbourhood Plan part of Blaby District's Development Plan. The made plan is available to view <u>here</u>.

## Self Build and Custom Housing Building Register

2.8 The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 sets out a requirement for all local authorities to keep a register of people who wish to register their interest in self-build or custom-building. At 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, 102 individuals and 1 Association comprising 2 members expressed a wish to be included on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register. There were 8 Self or Custom Build Sites granted planning permission in Blaby in the monitoring period.

## **Brownfield Land Register**

2.9 The Council is currently updating its Brownfield Land Register (BLR). The register identifies previously developed 'brownfield' land in the District which meets certain criteria that are set out in Regulations. The register identifies sites which are of a certain size/capacity and are suitable and available for residential development. Importantly, in order to be included on the register a site must also be 'achievable' which means that in the opinion of the local authority development is likely to take place on the site within 15 years of the entry date.

## **Community Infrastructure Levy**

2.10 The District Council is not intending to prepare a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule at the present time, as such there is no activity to report on for the monitoring period.

# 3.0 Housing Land Supply

3.1 Housing completions for the monitoring period were 422. This is above the plan requirement of 380 per annum. However, delivery has declined in recent years and is now running slightly behind the expected delivery anticipated in the Plan, which at 18 years assuming 380 homes per annum is 6,840. It is forecast that completions will fall back in the remaining years of the plan period due to a lack of sites currently available for development.

Monitoring Period	PUA*	Non-PUA	District
06/07	165	53	218
07/08	266	63	329
08/09	85	112	197
09/10	55	125	180
10/11	51	155	206
11/12	26	243	269
12/13	69	225	294
13/14	57	248	305
14/15	133	272	405
15/16	236	497	733
16/17	182	561	743
17/18	207	381	588
18/19	252	269	521
19/20	188	239	427
20/21	150	142	292
21/22	263	101	364
22/23	211	64	275
23/24	230	192	422
TOTAL	2,826	3,942	6,768

#### **Table 1: Housing Completions in Blaby**

\*PUA (Principal Urban Area) Source BDC 2024

3.2 The Council has published an up-to-date land supply position within its Residential Land Availability (RLA) report on its <u>website</u>. This confirms that on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the Council had a **3.53 year** housing land supply. The RLA also forecasts that by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2029 the Council is on course to deliver 8,160 homes against a requirement of 8,740 between 2006 - 2029. This is around 580 homes short of the minimum housing requirement identified in the Local Plan. This shortfall has mainly

arisen because a number of large housing sites in the District have built out slower than anticipated or construction work on site has started later than expected. The Council is working proactively to address this forecast under provision, including through the preparation of a new local plan.

# Housing Distribution

	Settlement	Minimum Housing Requirement	Forecast Delivery to 2029	Residual Requirement
Principal Urban Area	Glenfield Kirby Muxloe Leicester Forest East Braunstone Town Glen Parva Lubbesthorpe	5,750	7,305	-1,555
Blaby Town	Blaby	420	573	-153
	Land adj. Earl Shilton	105	90	15
Larger Central Villages	Enderby Narborough Whetstone Countesthorpe	155 210 365 520	229 204 613 610	-74 -4 -248 -90
Rural Centre	Stoney Stanton	320	479	-159
Medium Central Villages	Littlethorpe Huncote Cosby Croft Sapcote	815	1,166	-351
Smaller Villages	Elmesthorpe Kilby Sharnford Thurlaston	80	109	-29
Hamlets and Very Small Villages	Aston Flamville Leicester Forest West Potters Marston Wigston Parva	0	3	-3
	TOTAL	8,740	11,381	-2,681

Table 2 Housing Distribution: Housing distribution over the plan period bysettlement, as at 31 March 2024

- 3.3 The above table shows the total number of houses completed and committed to be built within the District by either each settlement or each group of settlements, as at 31 March 2024. Across all settlements there are more homes committed than required by the Plan. This information is based on that included in the Council's residential land availability assessment.
- 3.4 Whilst there are more homes committed, the Council does not consider that within the PUA there is a likelihood that all committed sites will come forward in the Plan period. Policy CS5 of the Core Strategy indicates that 5,750 homes will be delivered in the Plan period including 4,250 within a new SUE at Lubbesthorpe. As of the 31st March 2024 a total of 2,826 homes have been completed in the PUA leaving a residual requirement of 2,924 homes to be delivered over the next 5 monitoring periods; a requirement of 593 homes per annum allowing for small buffer. Clearly, it is unlikely that this level of provision will be achieved given historic delivery and the sites remaining in the PUA. The Council now forecasts that a further 1,259 homes will be delivered in the PUA up to 2029. A shortfall of around 1,665. This shortfall has been partially offset by the over delivery of homes in the Non-PUA. Taking account of forecast future delivery in the Non-PUA we currently anticipate that around 4,070 homes could be delivered in the non PUA against a plan requirement of 2,990 homes.

#### New Lubbesthorpe SUE

3.5 The New Lubbesthorpe SUE accounts for a significant component of the Council's overall housing delivery. Housing completions on the site have averaged 158 homes per annum over the past 5 years, although completions have increased to around 190 homes per annum in 2021-22 and 2022-23. Based on delivery continuing at the current levels it is likely that the site will take around 17 years to fully build out.

Monitoring Period	Number of house completions
16/17	2
17/18	98
18/19	171
19/20	128
20/21	105
21/22	190
22/23	197
23/24	167
TOTAL	1,058

#### Table 3: Housing Completions on New Lubbesthorpe SUE

3.6 In addition to residential development the Lubbesthorpe site also includes a strategic employment as well as other key pieces of infrastructure. To date 15. 5ha of employment land has been completed. In addition, permission has recently been granted in this monitoring period for the provision of a new local centre to include a doctor's surgery, residential care home and local shops.

## **Previously Developed and Greenfield Land Completions**

	PDL (Brownfield)	Greenfield Sites	Total	Percentage on PDL
2006/07	40	178	218	18.3%
2007/08	150	179	329	45.6%
2008/09	136	61	197	69.0%
2009/10	135	45	180	75.0%
2010/11	108	98	206	52.4%
2011/12	69	200	269	25.7%
2012/13	89	205	294	23.5%
2013/14	80	225	305	26.2%
2014/15	79	326	405	19.5%
2015/16	149	584	733	20.3%
2016/17	119	624	743	16.0%
2017/18	181	407	588	30.8%
2018/19	99	422	521	19.0%
2019/20	73	354	427	17.1%
2020/21	28	264	292	9.6%
2021/22	28	336	364	7.6%
2022/23	8	267	275	2.9%
2023/24	171	217	422	40.5%

#### Table 4 Greenfield and Previously Developed (Brownfield) Land Completions

- 3.7 Brownfield sites tended to account for a higher proportion of developments earlier in the plan period, when housing completions were lower. However, as housing delivery increased in the middle part of the plan period the proportion of developments on brownfield sites decreased. This decrease has accelerated in recent years as the Council's supply has increasingly been made up of fewer large greenfield sites. Between 2006/07 and 2023/24 around a quarter of all new homes built in the District have been located on previously developed land.
- 3.8 There are very few brownfield sites now available in Blaby District and as a result it is unlikely that completions on brownfield sites will notably increase in future years. The significant increase recorded in the monitoring period is attributable to the delivery and completion of two large housing sites delivered on part of the Whittle Estate (industrial area) in Whetstone.

#### **Affordable Housing**

Monitoring	06/0	07/0	08/0	09/1	10/1	11/1	12/1	13/1	14/1
Period	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5
District	6	58	18	37	71	78	68	67	123
Cumulative Total	6	64	82	119	190	268	336	403	526

Table 5: Affordable Housing: Number of new affordable houses completed in
the District since the start of the plan period

Monitoring Period	15/1 6	16/1 7	17/1 8	18/1 9	19/2 0	20/2 1	21/2 2	22/2 3	23/2 4
District	197	131	115	125	68	30	77	51	131
Cumulative Total	723	854	969	1,09 4	1,16 2	1,19 2	1,26 9	1,32 0	1,45 1

- 3.9 Table 5 shows the number of affordable homes which have been built each year since 2006/07. The overall level of affordable housing delivered is substantially linked to overall housing delivery. Provision peaked between 2014/15 and 2018/19 but has fallen back in recent years. Notwithstanding this there has been a significant increase in delivery in this monitoring period due to two large affordable schemes in Whetstone being delivered. Within this monitoring period 131 affordable homes were completed, which is equivalent to 31% of total provision for 2023/24.
- 3.11 Over the plan period to date around 20% of all homes delivered have been affordable. Whilst this is less than the target set in policy CS7 (a minimum of 25%) it reflects the fact that no provision is sought on smaller development sites and affordable housing requirements on the early stages of the Lubbesthorpe Site are set lower than 25%. Moreover, policy CS7 of the adopted Local Plan aims to balance this affordable housing need with viability considerations so that sites continue to come forward and overall housing completions are maintained.

## Gypsy and Traveller Provision

Table 6 Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers: Number of Gypsy andTraveller pitches granted planning permission between 1 April 2012 and 31March 2024

	Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Travelling Showpeople Plots	Travelling Showpeople Plots
Monitoring Period	District	Cumulative Total	District	Cumulative Total
12/13	0	0	0	0
13/14	18	18	0	0
14/15	4	22	0	0
15/16	0	22	0	0
16/17	0	22	0	0
17/18	0	22	0	0
18/19	1	23	0	0
19/20	0	23	0	0
20/21	0	23	0	0
2021/22	0	23	0	0
2022/23	2	25	0	0
2023/24	0	25	0	0
TOTAL	25	-	0	-

3.13 Since the start of the plan period, 25 gypsy and traveller pitches and no Travelling Showpeople plots have been granted planning permission across the District.

## 4.0 Employment Land Supply

4.1 The Core Strategy sets out the scale of growth and locational strategy for the District from 2006 to 2029. For employment land, policy CS1 of the Core Strategy states that there is a requirement to provide a minimum of 68 hectares (ha) additional employment land within the District, of which at least 57ha will be provided within and adjoining the Principal Urban Area (PUA). To effectively monitor policy CS1, this schedule identifies land as either PUA or non-PUA and whether a site is permitted, under construction, or completed.

Year	Gross Floor Space (sqm)	Net Floor Space (sqm)	Gross Site Area (Ha)	Net Site Area (Ha)
2006/07	8,783	8,783	2.03	2.03
2007/08	6,692	4,652	2.41	2.04
2008/09	3,175	3,175	3.12	3.12
2009/10	3,389	1,689	1.77	1.06
2010/11	0	0	0	0
2011/12	6,772	4,530	1.69	-0.16
2012/13	1,105	569	0.31	0.11
2013/14	1,282	1,282	0.51	0.25
2014/15	33,690	26,496	6.32	4.23
2015/16	48,528	38,745	10.66	5.68
2016/17	38,484	35,414	8.91	8.31
2017/18	13,552	13,552	3.15	3.15
2018/19	49,374	36,907	19.13	13.76
2019/20	5,279	5,279	0.34	0.34
2020/21	13,376	13,186	3.1	3.1
2021/22	10,969	10,969	3.04	3.04
2022/23	4,074	1,574	1	-1.12
2023/24	0	0	0	0

## Table 7 provides a summary of employment land provision since 2006/07.

- 4.2 No sites were completed in the 2023/24 monitoring period.
- 4.3 Further information on employment land availability is set out on the Council's website. Since 2011, 66.66 ha of land has been granted planning permission for employment use within the District. One site of 33 ha has been allocated for employment uses at Land west of St Johns, Enderby in the Local Plan (Delivery) Development Plan Document (2019) taking the total amount of land permitted and allocated for employment development in the District up to 99.66 ha. As noted above 45.05 ha of the 66.66 ha of employment land permitted by the 31st March 2024 has been completed and 52.74 ha of the employment land has been permitted is located in the PUA.

## 5.0 Infrastructure

5.1 On 1 September 2019, the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 came into force, requiring that all authorities in receipt of contributions received through planning obligations (also known as Section 106 contributions) must produce an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The 2023/24 monitoring period coincides with the period covered by the Council's 5<sup>th</sup> IFS (i.e. April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023-March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024). The Infrastructure Funding Statement provides various breakdowns of the Section 106 monies, as is required by the Regulations and the IFS itself is available to view on the Council's website

Table 8: Section 106 contributions received and spent/transferred by year from2019/20 to 2023/24

Year	S106 contributions received	S106 contributions spent and transferred
2019/20	£472,981.64	£1,411,397.86
2020/21	£510,978.98	£870,769.27
2021/22	£248,686.01	£705,990.40
2022/23	£738,693.86	£341,884.01
2023/24	£187,657.52	£690,572.22

- 5.2 It can be seen from the above table that the Council received a comparatively low level of S106 contributions in the monitoring period, however, the amount spent and transferred was around three and a half times the level of contributions received within the monitoring period.
- 5.3 The Council continues to hold significant contributions. This is because contributions secured as part of S106 Agreements must be proportionate to the scale of the development concerned and its impact upon local communities. This means that large-scale projects, for example, extensions to health facilities or a school or large-scale road improvement, can often only be undertaken with contributions from several developments. The Council holds several contributions which are being accrued to pay for such large projects, this is known as 'pooling'. The Council works

with service providers to ensure that these projects are implemented in accordance with the S106 agreements. The Council held unspent financial contributions equating to £2,395,747.14 at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



# Blaby District Council Statement

# Authority Monitoring Report

Original Publish Date	[31/12/2013]	Review Frequency	Annual	Current Version Publish Date	[00/00/0000]
Approved By*	Service Manager (Individual)	Approval Date*	[12/02/2025]	Version Number	011
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\*Approved by and 'approval date' are in relation to the most recent version.

Review History					
Version*	Reviewed By (Job Title)	Review Completion Date	Brief Description of Changes (add 'no changes required' if applicable)		
011	Planning Policy and Strategy Manager		Updated monitoring information for the period of 2023-2024.		

\*Version number remains the same if no significant changes are made upon review.

## **Document Definition / Approval & Review**

#### Defining the document type and how it is approved and reviewed

Blaby District Council statement 'A definite or clear expression of something in writing (something that is written which provides information in a formal or definite way)'.

Key published documents are approved for publication in line with the approval matrix illustrated in the <u>Key Published Document Procedure</u>.

Unless agreed by exception, key published documents must be reviewed at least **every 3** years from the date of approval.

Significant updates/changes must also seek reapproval in line with the approval matrix.

## Scope

#### To what and to whom this statement applies

This statement provides an update on the progress of the preparation of planning policy documents (including the Local Plan, Neighborhood Plans, and Supplementary Planning Documents), and it provides information to monitor the progress and effectiveness of key policies in the adopted Local Plan.

It is applicable to staff and key decision takers, as well as developers and the local community, as it shows the progress towards meeting the objectives of the key policies in the adopted Local Plan.

#### **Terms & Definitions**

Definition of any acronyms, jargon, or terms that might have multiple meanings.

Term	Definition		
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document		
DPD	Development Plan Document		
IFS	Infrastructure Funding Statement		
S106	Section 106 Agreement		
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy		
PUA	Principal Urban Area		
5yhls	5 Year Housing Land Supply		
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework		
SHELAA	Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment		
SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension		

## **Statement Sections**

#### Section 1 Introduction – The purpose of the statement and any relevant context

This document has been prepared by Blaby District Council to show the progress that has been made towards meeting the objectives of the key policies in the adopted Local Plan (Core Strategy 2013), as well as the progress made on the preparation of planning policy documents.

#### Section 2 – Planning Policy Progress

This section sets out the progress on the production of planning policy documents.

#### Section 3 – Housing Land Supply

This section shows the housing land supply position for 2023-2024, as well as information on the delivery of affordable housing and gypsy and traveller sites.

#### Section 4 – Employment Land Supply

This section presents the employment land supply position for 2023-2024

#### **Section 5 - Infrastructure**

This section provides a summary of the financial contributions that Blaby District Council has secured, received and spent from S106 Legal Agreements during the financial period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.