

10 MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 10.1 The County Council and the National Park Authority are required to monitor the implementation of the Structure Plan and the effectiveness of its policies.
- 10.2 A separate technical paper²⁵ has identified the targets, indicators and outcomes applicable to each of the policies. It explains the sources of information needed to check how well it is working. Effective use will be made of information being collected by the County Council, National Park Authority, District Councils and other organisations. Increasingly, information is needed to assist the process of regional and sub-regional planning, as well as to inform local policies.
- 10.3 The monitoring process will be formalised in either annual or longer term monitoring reports. The former will concentrate on issues which are central to land use planning. For example, a housing land review will assess the rate at which new houses and conversions to residential use are granted permission and completed. An employment land review will assess the development of land allocated for business uses and other sectors providing employment. In both cases the proportion of development being undertaken on previously developed land will be an important consideration. Equally, the amount of such land devoted to other beneficial uses eg, woodlands, local amenities, needs to be kept under review.
- 10.4 Other reports, proposed at less regular intervals, will bring together relevant information on social, economic and environmental trends. These will provide opportunities to assess the effectiveness of planning policies from a wider perspective, and help ensure that the Development Plan is kept up-to-date. These reports will make use of initiatives by other agencies and groups of organisations (eg North West Action for Sustainability, Cumbria Economic Intelligence Partnership) to evaluate change. A part of this process will involve a continuing commitment to achieve a more sustainable approach²⁶ to development through the land use planning system.
- 10.5 Since policies contained in the Structure Plan operate collectively, the County Council will prepare a full monitoring report assessing the performance of the whole Structure Plan at regular intervals in association with the National Park Authority and District Councils. This will ensure that changes in physical, social and economic factors, in the Plans context and in values, are adequately and thoroughly addressed.

- 10.6 A key aspect of monitoring will be to ensure that policies remain relevant and that they are being implemented. In development plan terms this is the role currently of the Local Plans prepared by the District Councils, the National Park Authority and in the case of waste and minerals outside the National Park the County Council.
- 10.7 A wide range of organisations will be responsible for the delivery of policy other than the County Council and National Park Authority. The technical report identifies those organisations that will contribute to the implementation of each policy. It will help influence their future activity, policy and resource programmes. Of particular importance will be:

District Councils.

District Councils (and other Local Planning Authorities) translate policies contained in the Structure Plan into site specific allocations of land and more detailed policies through the preparation of Local Plans. These provide the context for deciding planning applications. District Councils can also influence the implementation of the Structure Plan through related strategies and initiatives covering issues such as economic development, town centres and environmental improvements or investment programmes such as housing.

Government

Government departments fund a wide range of investment programmes such as transport spending, supporting agriculture and rural enterprises, and environmental and economic initiatives.

North West Regional Development Agency

Is responsible for bringing forward economic opportunities, employment land and funding a wide range of initiatives. They are responsible for the two local regeneration companies.

Countryside Agency

Is responsible for bringing forward and funding a wide range of environmental and social initiatives effecting rural areas and communities.

Environment Agency

The regulatory function of the Environmental Agency works through the Structure Plan (and Local Plans) to prevent development polluting water resources, increasing flooding or putting life at risk. The Agency also funds a range of environmental initiatives and sea and watercourse defence works.

Other Public Sector Agencies

There are a number of other key agencies that will play their role in the implementation of the plan. They include Cumbria Inward Investment Agency, local enterprise companies, English Heritage and the Cumbria ~~and Lake District~~ Tourist Board.

Utility Companies

Structure Plan (and Local Plans) and the Utility Companies need to work together to ensure that new development is capable of being serviced and where appropriate new investment in services is programmed and delivered.

Private Developers and Commercial Interests

The requirement for new development, as identified by the Structure Plan (and Local Plans), will for the most part, be, implemented by private developers and commercial interests. By providing a facilitating framework the Structure Plan will enable desirable new development to be brought forward. The onus will be on developers to demonstrate they fulfil the requirement of policy through the submission of their planning applications.

Registered Social Landlords and Housing Associations

Will enable the communities need for affordable housing that cannot be achieved through the private house building market to be met.

Voluntary Sector

Has a useful role in addition or in support of the public and private sectors in bringing forward a wide range initiatives and projects. They include economic, social and environmental programmes such as Groundwork Trust and Voluntary Action Cumbria.

Parish Councils and Local Communities

Communities are increasingly involved in the way they would like to see the physical development of their areas articulated at the local level through community strategies, town, village or parish plans. The Structure Plan and Local Plans provide the context for influencing decisions on development in the local area.