

APPENDIX 1

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2007/08 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Development Scheme

- The latest LDS came into effect in August 2008

Population

- 2007 mid-year estimated population for Wyre Forest District was 98,600 – an increase of 400 on the previous year
- The largest increase was again in the 60-64 age group (+500)

Housing

- 253 new dwellings were completed in 2007/08; 9 units were retained in flat conversions; 61 dwellings were demolished including 44 social housing flats at Windsor Drive, Kidderminster
- 93% of dwellings were completed on brownfield sites (previously developed land)
- 447 dwellings were under construction at the end of the financial year as opposed to 223 the previous year
- 45% of completions were at a density of at least 50 dwellings per hectare with only 12% being at less than 30 per hectare
- 84 affordable dwellings were completed during 2007/08 including 9 shared ownership – all were on 100% affordable sites managed by Wyre Forest Community Housing
- 71% of completions were 1-2 bedroom properties up from 52% last year
- 83% of the completions were in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn
- Replacement ratio where homes have been demolished was low at 1:1.2 due to the 44 flats at Windsor Drive being replaced by just 29 dwellings
- 61% of completions in Kidderminster were in the form of flats compared with 37% the previous year
- The largest completed sites were the Community Housing sites at the Horsefair, Kidderminster and adjacent Vale Business Park in Stourport-on-Severn
- Work started during the year on a number of large sites including Windsor Drive, Zanzibars, Longfellow Green and Franchise Street in Kidderminster and Lichfield Basin in Stourport-on-Severn.
- There were only 11 dwellings completed in Bewdley during 2007/08; Wolverley Parish had 13 completions; 9 of these were of 1 or 2 beds
- There were 30 completions in the rural areas; 13 were barn conversions

Employment

- Unemployment averaged 2.3% during the year, slightly lower than for the previous twelve months. Overall numbers were highest in Broadwaters Ward and the % rate was highest in Oldington & Foley Park Ward – both in Kidderminster
- The percentage of district jobs in manufacturing continues to decline with 18.5% of the workforce employed in this sector in December 2006 (a fall of 1.3% in 2 years). The total number of jobs is slightly down, but the number of full-time jobs has been maintained. The largest change has been the growth in tourism – related jobs which employed 3,400 people in December 2006 (9.7% of the workforce)
- 8,136 sq.m of floorspace was completed in 2007/08 – Phase 1 of Finepoint on the former Brintons Sports Ground off Stourport Road consists of 10 units with parking and access road.
- Current land supply is 48.2Ha. Some 16.94Ha has been completed since 1996

Local Environment

- Broadwaters Park in Kidderminster retained its Green Pennant and Jubilee Gardens in Bewdley retained its Green Flag
- A Local Nature Reserve was declared at Moorhall Lane in Stouport-on-Severn
- Bewdley was surveyed during 2007 and approximately 170 buildings and structures are now Locally Listed

Transport

- The missing link in the cycle route between Kidderminster town centre and Birchen Coppice was completed with the signing of the route via Sutton Farm Estate and Brinton Park.

Retailing and Town Centres

- 470sq.m mixed use retail and residential development near Kidderminster station at Comberton Heights was completed.
- Work began on new Morrison's supermarket (7,153 sq. m) in Kidderminster
- Construction began on replacement shops at Offmore Farm, Kidderminster