City of
Doncaster
Council

Doncaster Local Plan
Annual Monitoring Report
2023

Annual Monitoring Report 2022 - 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report.

This is the Annual Monitoring Report[1] (AMR) for Doncaster's Local Plan, covering the period April 2022 to March 2023. Monitoring is essential to understanding the effectiveness of the Local Plan's objectives and policies, to identify its strengths and any weaknesses, and to help review whether it needs to be updated. The Doncaster Local Plan was on adopted on 23 September 2021.

1.2 Government legislation.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to produce Authority Monitoring Reports containing specific information such as status and progress of the Authority's Local Plan, the performance of policies and details of the Authority's endeavours with neighbouring authorities with regard to Duty to Co-operate. The relevant Regulations with regard to the production of the AMR can be viewed on the Government legislation website.

1.4 Structure of the Report

This report will

- Monitor progress of the Local Plan against a set of indicators.
- Report any activity in relation to the Duty to Co-operate.
- Provide up to date details of the implementation of neighbourhood plans.
- Provide details of any updates to evidence base documents.
- Provide the evidence to help review the need to update the Local Plan.

1.5 Timeframe

The Local Plan period started in 2015, albeit much of the information within it has a base date of 2018. This AMR reports on indicators for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. Where possible the data for the indicators has been 'baselined' in 2015 to provide 8 years of data (to 2023) to establish trends pre and post Local Plan adoption. This will enable more effective analysis of the impact of the Local Plan and its policies in the forthcoming years. Some data (where available) is dated post March 2023 for greater currency.

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[1] Planning Practice Guidance uses the term 'Authority Monitoring Report.'

1.6 Methodology

Data collection and analysis

Almost 100 individual data indicators have been assessed in the preparation of this report. The indicators inform the overall 'RAG' rating of the 9 Local Plan objectives. Table 1 shows the overall RAG rating for the direction of travel of each objective. Green – moving in the right direction, Amber – no change and Red – moving in the wrong direction. The 100 individual indicators also have a RAG rating. The individual indicators summary data table can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. Most of the individual indicators also has its own 'data sheet.' These are in Appendix 2 of this report.

2. Summary of the key findings of this Report.

The following is a summary review of the findings of the monitoring indicators in relation to the Local Plan objectives as listed in paragraph 3.5 of the Plan.

2.1 The Local Plan Objectives.

- Supporting the Conditions for Attracting Jobs and Growth
- Regeneration and Community Pride
- Quality of Place
- Transport and Accessibility
- Homes and Communities
- Health and Wellbeing
- Countryside and natural environment
- Climate change, flood risk and energy
- Natural resources

2.3 Objective: Supporting the Conditions for Attracting Jobs and Growth

2.3.1 More jobs.

There are currently (2022) 116,347 Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE's) in Doncaster. Between 2015 and 2022 there was a net increase of 10,725 (9.69%). The net increase is 2% more than the national average and more than double that of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) for the same period.

The net change in FTEs since 2015 equates to 1.38% per annum taking the average gain to over 1% per annum for the first time in 5 years and meeting the Local Plan forecast increase. There has been a significant gain of over 7,000 employees in the 2021-22 period.

Between 2015 and 2022 there have been significant net gains and losses in some of the 18 primary individual employment sectors. There have been gains in 'Transport Storage and Post' (+8,000) and 'Construction (+ 1, 800). Those gains are tempered

by losses in 'Public Administration and Defence' (- 2,125), 'Business Admin and Support Service' (- 1,150) and 'Education' (- 1,150).

Job density in Doncaster (the number of jobs per resident working age individual) is 0.72 (2021 most current data) and has averaged 0.72 between 2015 and 2021. A job density of 1.0 would mean that there was an equal number of jobs available to the number of working age people. The Doncaster density is on a par with the SYMCA average but is lower than the English average of 0.86 over the period. For further detail see indicators 1, 2 & A7.

2.3.2 Employment Land Development

In total 292 Hectares of land (inclusive of 208 Ha of Local Plan allocated land and other existing employment sites) has been developed since 2015 at an average rate of 36.47 hectares per year. 84% of all development is for warehousing, including over 100 Ha at iPort. In total, over 9 million square feet of floor space has been developed. 8 years into the Local Plan period 208 Hectares of the original 482 ha of allocated land have been developed. The development rate is within the expected parameters of the original forecasts. More land has come forward for development above the original site capacity estimations made in the Local Plan. The additional land combined with the current take up rate trajectory suggests sufficient remaining land supply for the Plan period. For further detail see indicators 23 & 24.

2.3.3 Number of Businesses

The number of business enterprises has grown by 20% between 2015 and 2023 (more than the regional and national rates). Almost all of the growth is in the 'micro business' (0-9 employees) size band. A large proportion of the growth is in the 'Freight Transport by Road' and 'the 'Domestic Building Construction' sectors.

The number of enterprises per 1,000 population has remained consistent between 2015 and 2022 averaging 33 (on a par with the Region but lower than the English average). The number of workers per enterprise is higher than the National average. For further detail see indicator 1.

2.3.5 Activity rates

The Doncaster employment rate for working age people reached an eight year high of 74% in 2022. The rate had remained consistent between 2015 and 2022 at an average of almost 72%. The average employment rate is in line with the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYCMA) level but is lower than the national average of 75% over the same period. The economic activity rate (people who are active or potentially active members of the labour market) improved by 2 points between 2021 and 2022. Since 2015 the average economic activity rate has been almost 77%. The rate is slightly higher than the SYCMA but almost 2 points lower

than the national level. The current data suggests some apparent recovery post Covid pandemic. For further detail see indicator 3.

2.3.6 Qualifications

As of 2021, 52.7% of the working age population are qualified to Level 3 (A level equivalent) and above. An increase by 7.7% since 2015. Despite this rise, Doncaster still falls short of the SYCMA average by over 5% and the English average by 9%. 9% of people aged 16 to 64 have no qualifications. This is 3% higher than both Regional and National averages. There is no data available post 2021. For further detail see indicator 7.

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2.3.7 Productivity

Doncaster has a £6 billion economy in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA rose by 18% (more than the national average) between 2015 and 2021 (latest data). The Doncaster share of the overall UK GVA has remained consistent at 0.33% between 2015 and 2021. GVA per filled job has increased by 16% since 2015, closing the gap between Doncaster and the SYMCA but still down 23% on the national average. Analysis shows that the most important sectors for Doncaster in terms of the number of workers and productivity (GVA) are 'Logistics,' 'Health,' 'Manufacturing' and 'Education.' For further detail see indicators 6 and A1.

2.3.8 The Prosperity Gap

2020 data shows that if the distribution of employees across the employment sectors was the same as the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority there would be an additional £230 million (or 3.94%) of GVA output. Plus, if the employment rate were the same as the national average it would result in an additional £175 million in GVA. Doncaster is under-represented in terms of the number of employees in some of the 'higher value' sectors such as Finance, Real Estate and I.T. Whilst there is a lack of representation in some higher value sectors, other sectors including Logistics, Construction and Health are more productive than the regional average. The perceived 'prosperity gap' has remained largely unchanged since 2015. Census 2021 Socio Economic status shows less workers in managerial occupations, more people in routine occupations, more people who have never worked and are long-term unemployed and less full-time students in comparison with the Regional and National average. For further detail see indicators 6 and A1.

2.3.9 Wages

The median wage stands at £569 per week in 2022. There has been a 19% increase since 2015 (In line with regional and national trends). Despite the increase, wages

remain lower than the Yorkshire and Humber Region by over 2% and lower than the English average by 11%. For further detail see indicator 5.

2.3.10 Transport Infrastructure

Local Plan Policy 12 lists 12 major transport network enhancements. Unity Way opened in December 2020. The first phase of the West Moor link road is complete with the second phase expected within five years. Improvements to the M18 are expected by 2025. Capacity improvements to the A631 are still expected to be delivered in the plan period. A1 capacity improvements are being delivered by Highways England with work expected to start after 2026. See Indicator 37 for further detail.

2.3.11 Digital Infrastructure

99% of premises in the Borough have connectivity to Superfast broadband available. 63% of premises have 'full fibre to premises' (FFTP) or 'ultrafast' (300mbs +) connectivity. Doncaster is also part of the 'Gigabit Cities' project to bring speeds of 1000mbs. Building Regulations are in place that require all new homes built in England to be fitted with infrastructure and connections capable of delivering gigabit broadband. For further detail see indicator 48.

2.3.12 Key Spatial proposals

Doncaster Town Centre Masterplan. There have been several significant developments across the Town Centre in line with the proposals in the Urban Centre Masterplan. Money has been secured from the Governments 'Town Deal Fund' and 'Levelling up Fund' to contribute towards major infrastructure improvements. For further detail see indicator 88.

Community Masterplans. Masterplans have been developed with the objective of identifying where improvements can be made to local community areas, identifying projects for the future, and forming a basis for funding bids to the Government. Four are complete for Thorne & Moorends, Rossington, Edlington and Mexborough.

Unity. The Unity scheme was granted Outline Planning Permission in 2017 for a major mixed-use development. 2 major warehouse developments are currently underway with another pending decision. Permission was granted in June 2023 for 246 homes at Unity Living. For further detail see indicator 89.

Airport. The Airport closed on November 4th, 2022. The closure does not impact the Employment land allocations as the sites are not part of the Airport operational area. 2.51 Ha of the total Local Plan Employment land allocation of 84.58 ha at the Airport has been developed since 2015. The Terminal Business Park (Emp 15, part of the wider Gateway East) is part developed with 3 further sub plots Platinum Park (13x

units), Jubilee Park (3X business units) and Panattoni Doncaster 420 (distribution warehouse) having full permission and development started.

2.4 Objective: Regeneration and Community Pride

2.4.1 Deprivation

Doncaster is ranked 37th most Deprived (from 317) local authorities in England in the 2019 English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) where 1 is the most deprived and 317 is the least deprived. This is a rise of 5 places from 42 in the previous IMD of 2015. The overall rank of Doncaster in the Indices has remained much the same over a 15-year period following IMD's in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2015 and 2019 with the average rank over those studies being 40. Doncaster is in the top 20% most deprived local authorities in England. 60% of Doncaster population live in areas ranked in the 'Most' deprived or 'Worse than Average' quintiles. The IMD is expected to be updated in 2024. Census 2021 includes an element of deprivation analysis that confirms Doncaster is more deprived than the National average. For further detail see indicator 8.

2.4.2 Brownfield Land Development (Previously Developed Land)

So far in Local Plan period 83% of Employment land development is on greenfield sites. The Local Plan employment site allocations are dominated by large greenfield sites in response to the forecast requirements for land and locational demands, particularly for distribution warehouse type development. Between 2018 and 2023 63% of housing completions were on brownfield sites. For further detail see indicator 9.

2.4.3 Contaminated Land.

There are 43 sites on the Doncaster Register of Contaminated Land, all in current use. All but one has had remediation work undertaken. All sites regardless of remediation are required to remain on the register. There are no allocated sites on the register. For further detail see indicator 74.

2.4.4 Crime.

The Doncaster rate for recorded crime per 1,000 population is 139 (March 2023) a small improvement from 2022. The rate is 62% higher than the national average. Doncaster has the highest crime rate in South Yorkshire and is ranked in the top 5% of local authority areas in England for recorded crime per head of population (ranked 14 from 295, a rise of 7 places from 2022). For further detail see indicator A4.

2.4.5 Waste.

Doncaster recycles almost 45% of domestic waste (as at 2022) an increase of 2% since 2021. The current rate is 2% higher than the Yorkshire and Humber Region and England averages. Currently only 0.6%% of waste is sent to landfill, a 4% improvement since 2020 and a fall of over 54% since 2014. Doncaster sends less waste to landfill than both the Y&H Region and England as a whole. For further detail see indicator A8.

2.5 Objective: Quality of Place.

2.5.1 Living environment

The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is comprised of six sub domain indicators that contribute to the overall rankings. They include the 'Living Environment' domain. This domain measures the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' environment. In 2019 Doncaster was ranked 249 from 317 local authorities (where 1 is the most deprived) in this domain. This is a significant improvement from the previous IMD in 2015 where Doncaster was ranked at 155. Within this domain Doncaster is currently classed as 'better than average' overall from all English local authorities. The indices are expected to be updated in 2024. For further detail see indicator A8.

2.5.2 Public Art.

Since adoption of the Local Plan there have been a number of new art installations in the Town Centre including the Miners Statue, Station Forecourt and the 'Futures Past and Present' mural on the Frenchgate Centre. Further art proposals being developed for the Quality Streets Scheme and a number of planning applications are being determined which include public art proposals.

2.5.3 Residential Design

The Building for a Healthy Life Assessment is a national design standard for measuring the quality of major housing proposals. Completed developments will be checked for compliance with the design standard.

2.5.4 Housing design and adaptable homes.

Local Plan Policy 45 'Housing Design Standards (Strategic Policy) sets out the requirements for housing developments to comply with the 'Nationally Described Space Standard and Building Regulation requirements for 'Adaptable Homes' All major housing developments are now being assessed against the standards to ensure all new houses meet the minimum space standards for floor space and storage. Where applicable conditions will be attached to permissions to deliver the

new adaptable homes that are accessible for older and disabled people. See indicators 66 and 67 for further detail.

Sustainable building.

Conditions are attached to all 'non-residential' Planning Permissions where applicable to deliver the sustainability standards for the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method 'BREEAM' rating. Permissions in the 2022/23 period included the former Croda site Wheatley Hall Road, Units at iPort, Unity Energy (plot 1) and Gateway East. See indicator 68 for further detail.

2.5.5 Retail health.

Since 2015 the number of retail units across the Borough shows a net increase of 4.15% and floor space has increased by 1.71% (in contrast to a slight fall nationally). The number of 'Retail' employees increased by a net 690 (5%) over the same period. There was a significant drop in employees between 2020 and 2021 (down by 2,000) but an increase of over 2,500 the following year elevating the number of employees to its highest (14,320) over the 2015 to 2022 period. The total number of Retail businesses has increased between 2015 and 2022. Much of the increase was in the 'micro business (0-9 employees) size band, and in particular in the 'Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet' sector indicating a shift away from traditional 'high street' retailing. Analysis of the Local Plan featured Town Centres (as per policies 67/70/72) suggests that the Retail sector in Thorne and Mexborough in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), Employee numbers, units and floor space remains relatively stable however, Doncaster town centre is in decline. For further detail see indicators A13, 87, 90 & 92.

2.5.6 Heritage assets.

Doncaster has 800 Listed Buildings, 46 Conservation Areas and 51 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The annual Historic England Heritage at Risk Register includes Grade I and II* listed buildings, conservation areas, and Grade II listed religious buildings (but excludes Grade II listed secular buildings and structures). It records that in 2022, 24 of these heritage assets were at risk. For further detail see indicators 58-62 inclusive.

2.5.7 Local Heritage List.

The South Yorkshire Local Heritage List was launched in September 2021 and the process of assessing nominations for the local list began in early 2022. The first set of assessments identified 31 heritage assets within Doncaster, 28 of which are buildings, structures, or monuments of local heritage interest and 3 which are archaeological assets of local heritage interest. Consultation was undertaken in early

2023 and a Consultation Report published in May 2023. Following on from this Report 28 heritage assets have been included on the first Doncaster Local Heritage List. A further 3 will be subject to further assessment. For further detail see indicator 62.

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2.6 Objective: Transport and Accessibility

2.6.1 Mode of Transport to Work

Census 2021 'Method of Travel' to work data shows that driving by car or van is still by far the most used method of travel (as it was in 2001 and 2011). 13% more Doncaster workers travel to work driving a car or van than the national average. The biggest change is in the number of people recorded as 'Working from Home.' Over 25,000 (18%) of Doncaster working adults are recorded as working from home. It should be noted that the Census was conducted during a national Covid lockdown when Government advice was to work at home and avoid public transport. For further detail see indicator 10.

2.6.2 Commuting

Census 2021 data suggests that Doncaster still has a daily net 'out-commute' of workers as was the case at Census 2011. The Census was taken when Pandemic lockdown travel restrictions were in place therefore 'distance travelled to work' data is skewed by people recorded as 'working from home.' At the time of this Report the Census 2021 commuting flows (origin and destination) data has not been released. For further detail see indicator 10.

2.7 Objective: Homes and Communities.

2.7.1 Population change

The resident population of Doncaster is 311,000 in the 2022 ONS population estimate (in comparison to Census 2021 at 308,1000). The population has risen by a net 8,500 (2.18%) since Census 2011. This compares to the England increase of 7% over the same period. The working age population has fallen by 1,600 (0.83%) since 2011 in contrast to a 4.33% increase nationally. If the age profile of the Doncaster population were the same as the national average, there would be an additional 3,500 people of working age. The number of people aged over 65 has increased significantly (+9,400/18.25%) slightly higher than the national average of 17.88%. The 'support ratio' (i.e., the ratio of the population as a whole to the working age population) stands at 1.62 (up from 1.56 in 2011). See indicator 11 for more detail.

2.7.2 Homelessness

Government statistics show that as of March 2022, 1,090 people in Doncaster are calculated to be in need of 'relief duty' (i.e., in need of help from authorities to secure accommodation); this is a fall from 1,309 in 2021. The number of households per 1,000 households with relief duty owed is 8.13, a fall from 9.83 in 2021. Despite the fall in the numbers the household figure is still 25% higher than the National and Regional average and the gap has not closed between 2018 and 2022. For further detail see indicator 14.

2.7.3 New homes

There were 1,295 (net) housing completions in between 2022 and 2023. Between 2018 and 2023 there have been 5,654 (net) housing completions. This equates to at an average rate of 1,131 per year. The development rate as of 2023 is approximately 22% above the expected average development rate of 920 units per annum. The ratio of new homes to 1,000 population was 4.20 in 2023 - the highest so far in the Local Plan period and almost one point higher than the national average. For further detail see indicators 27 and13.

2.7.4 Affordable homes and Council Houses

361 affordable units were completed in 2022/23, the most in a single year in the Local Plan period. Overall, there has been a total of 1,624 affordable units completed between 2015 and 2023. 18% of all housing completions over the same period are classified as affordable. The Council has recorded 33 council house completions in the 2022/23 period. In total 332 council house completions are recorded between 2015 and 2023. The forecast target was 737 by 2025. See indicators 31 & 32 for further detail.

2.7.5. Five-year housing land supply

The Council published the latest 5 Year 'Deliverable Housing Land Supply Statement' in 2023. This covers the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2027 and follows on from the previous statement published in 2019. It sets out how the Council determines what the Local Plan's housing requirement is for the five-year period and how the supply of housing has been assessed to determine 'deliverability' as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Statement shows that the Council can demonstrate a five-year supply of 6,342 dwellings against a target of 4,531 or a 7-year deliverable housing land supply. See indicator 25 for further detail.

2.7.6 The Housing Delivery Test

The Government's Housing Delivery Test measures the rate of housing delivery against the set requirement over 3-year periods. In each of the 6 rolling 3-year

periods post 2015 housing delivery has been significantly above the delivery test threshold of 95%, with an average of 119% per annum. Between the 2020 and 2023 3-year period the delivery test outcome was 118%. See indicator 26 for further detail.

2.7.7 Housing Affordability

Houses are more affordable in Doncaster than the national average. Doncaster is in the top 10% most affordable places to work and buy a house in England and Wales ranking at the 27th most affordable from 331 local authorities. The affordability ratio (the relationship between average house price and wages) was 5.24 (i.e., the average Doncaster house price is 5.24 times greater than the average Doncaster wage) in 2022. The national average is 8.16. For further detail see indicator 12.

2.8 Objective: Health and Wellbeing.

2.8.1 Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth.

The overall life expectancy for both males and females has increased since 2003 but still falls short of the national average by about 2 years for both males and females. The percentage of the life span spent in good health has fluctuated over the last 20 years and remains lower than the national average for both males and females. There has been a downward trend since 2015 (contrary to regional and national trends) and the latest figures (2020) are the lowest in the last 10 years. See indicator 15 for further detail.

2.8.2 Physical Activity.

Data from the Sport England Active Lives Study shows that at 2022 Doncaster adults are less active than the regional and national averages. 57% of adults are considered 'active' within Government health guidelines. This is 6% lower than national average. 33% of adults are considered to be 'inactive' (i.e., they do less than 30 minutes of exercise per week) this is 7% higher than the national average. There has been a small improvement since the baseline study in 2015. See indicator 16 for further detail.

2.8.3 Children living in workless households.

In 2021 (latest data), 6,400 children (9.4% of all dependent children) live in a workless household. The percentage has fallen sharply from 24% in 2015. The current figure is on a par with both regional and national averages. See indicator 17 for further detail.

2.8.4 Child poverty.

In 2022, 32.4% (21,470) of all children in Doncaster are classified as living in relative poverty. The rate has increased by 2.51% (net) over the last 7 years but has fallen by 3 points over the last year from a high of 35%. The Doncaster rate has on average been 2.5 points higher than the national average since 2015. See indicator 18 for further detail.

2.8.5 Health inequalities.

When compared against the English average, deprivation in terms of 'Health and Disability' as recorded by the 2019 English Indices of Multiple Deprivation has worsened since 2015. A rise of 4 places from 43 to 39 from 317 local authorities (where 1 is the most deprived) means Doncaster is ranked amongst the most deprived in England. The deprivation indices are expected to be updated in 2024. Census 2021 data also shows that Doncaster residents are less healthy than the national average. See indicator 70 for further detail.

2.8.6 Obesity

73% of all adults in Doncaster are classified as overweight or obese by Public Heath England in 2022. There had been a downward trend in levels between 2015 and 2020 from 73% to 69% (closing the gap with Regional and National levels). However, since 2020, levels have climbed back up again. The Doncaster rate is currently 10% higher than the national average. Doncaster is in the top 20% of Local Authorities for the number of fast-food outlets per 100,000 population in England. Public Health England have shown a direct link between the number of outlets and deprivation. See indicators 51 and A5 for further detail.

2.8.7 Air quality.

There are 8 Air Quality Management Areas in Doncaster (no change from 2022). The 2023 Council Annual Status Report states that levels of air quality are improving across the Borough. The Report states that it is unclear at this stage whether the impacts of the pandemic are still being felt on traffic levels. Therefore, no firm conclusions can be drawn as to whether any of the AQMA's can be revoked. Further monitoring will be required before any decisions are made. Analysis by Friends of the Earth shows that In Doncaster 108 from 194 areas (56%) with a population 178,408 people (57% of the LA population) have levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) higher than the World Health Organisation recommended safety limit. See indicator 73 for further detail.

2.8.8 Cycling and Walking.

The Sport England Active Lives study also shows that the proportion of Doncaster adults cycling or walking (for either a method of travel or sport/leisure) is 6% lower

than the National average in 2021. There has been little change in the level of use as cycling as a means of travel between 2015 and 2020 with Doncaster levels consistently below the national average. Levels fell in 2021 as a result of Covid and 'lockdown'. Overall year on year levels of walking as a mode of travel have been consistently significantly lower in Doncaster in comparison to the regional and national averages. Levels had been consistent between 2015 and 2019 but there was a significant fall in the following 2 years (mirroring regional and national trends and probably because of Covid and lockdown). There is no data update post AMR 2022. See indicators 45 & 46 for further detail.

2.9 Objective: Countryside and Natural Environment.

2.9.1 Amount of Public Open Space.

The Green Space Audit 2013 assessed all of the green space in the 88 Communities Profile Areas of the Borough. Only one of the Areas (Cantley) has sufficient provision in all categories of Greenspace. 11 of the 88 areas are deficient in all types of green space. There was an expenditure of £3.68 million across 400 projects between 2015 and 2022 to improve the quality of the existing public open spaces. An update to the 2013 Audit is currently underway. For further detail see indicators 53 & 54.

2.9.2 Biodiversity Net Gain.

The Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in September 2022. Conditions or s106 agreements requiring net gain are being attached to planning permissions where applicable. The Council is working on establishing 'habitat banks' capable of delivering off-site compensation for habitat loss. The first habitat bank on a 62-acre site at Red House Farm near Sandall Beat Wood was approved in Summer 2023, and the land was 'seeded' in September 2023. A Biodiversity net gain recording system is being set up and will begin to collect data from planning applications and include this within future AMR reports. For further detail see indicator 55.

2.9.3 Positive Conservation Management

In 2022/22 Government statistics show that 27% of Doncaster local wildlife and geological sites (87 from 318) were in positive conservation management. This is a fall from 31% in 2022. This compares to the England overall average figure of 43%. For further detail indicator 56.

2.9.4 Trees

The Tree Team within Planning have continued to improve the service provided, including through the publication of an online interactive map which shows those

trees, groups and areas of trees and woodlands which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order, or protected by virtue of being in a Conservation Area. Copies of the Orders can be downloaded via the map. The Woodland Trust calculates that 1.7% of the Borough is covered by 'Ancient Woodland.' There was an increase of 28 Hectares (3%) increase between 2012 and 2022. See indicator 57 for further detail.

2.10 Objective: Climate Change, Flood Risk and Energy.

2.10.1 Climate Change.

In September 2019 Doncaster Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and the 'Team Doncaster' local strategic partnership of organisations set up a local Commission to advise on targets and actions for the Borough as a whole in response to the threat of climate change. The Commission's Report was issued in December 2020. See indicator A11 for further detail.

2.10.2 CO2 Emissions

CO2 emissions per capita (2021) have fallen 35% since 2005 mirroring both regional and national trends. However, despite the fall, emissions per capita are still 23% higher than the English average. Total emissions in Doncaster have fallen by 31% since 2005 (just over 2% per annum). National rates have fallen by 53% over the same period equating to 3% per annum. Despite the fall in CO2 emissions Doncaster's 'Carbon Budget' i.e., the maximum level of emissions allowed under the Governments carbon budget pledge will be used up by 2024. Doncaster is targeting an 85% reduction in emissions (from a 2005 baseline) by 2030. At the current rate of decrease that target will not be met. Emissions per capita and total emissions both rose in 2021 for the first time since 2012 probably because of a re-balancing post Covid and lockdown. See indicator 19 for further detail.

2.10.3 Renewable Energy Generation

Doncaster's renewable electricity generation has averaged 251,000 MWh per year since 2015 and currently (2022) stands at 234,188 MWh. Doncaster is currently ranked at 57 (a 'best' quintile ranking) from 373 UK local authorities for total output and at 116 (a 'better than average' quintile ranking) for total output per household. The main generation sources are Onshore wind (59%), Photovoltaics (17%), Anaerobic digestion (13%) and Landfill gas (11%). Conditions are attached to all 'non-residential' Planning Permissions where applicable to deliver at least 10% of 'Energy Through Renewables. See indicators 69 and A9 for further detail.

2.10.4 Electric Vehicle charging.

As of October 2022, there are a total of 73 electric vehicle charging devices in Doncaster local authority area. This equates 23.3 devices per 100,000 population. The number of devices per 100,000 population is still less than the regional average (33) and less than half the national average (53). There are 12 points in Doncaster Town Centre. There is planning approval for 50 new points and funding secured for 40 new charging bays. For further detail indicator 43.

2.10.5 Flood risk zones.

As of 2022 44% of the Doncaster Borough is categorised by the Environment Agency as being Flood Zone 2 or 3 including 2% classified as functional floodplain (3b). Changes to the extent of the flood risk zones is being monitored during the Local Plan period. There have been a small number of housing developments on none allocated sites in flood risk zone 3, and no employment or mixed-use development on none allocated sites. See indicator 20 and 77 for further detail.

2.10.6 Connected by Water Action Plan

The Connected by Water Action Plan was launched in January 2022 by an association of South Yorkshire organisations (including CDC), The Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to help tackle the climate emergency in South Yorkshire. The Plan includes tables of actions. The total investment in schemes and initiatives is currently calculated to be £400 million. The Plan is intended to be a 'living document' and will be monitored and updated when necessary. An update was published in 2023 detailing progress so far for listed actions. Doncaster is the lead authority for several of the actions. See indicator A12 for further detail.

2.11 Objective: Natural resources.

2.11.1 Loss of 'Best and Most Versatile' Agricultural Land

Natural England classifies land into 5 grades of Agricultural Land. Grade 5 is the poorest quality; Grade 1 is the best quality. There is only 0.17 Ha Grade 1 (best) quality agricultural land in Doncaster. Only 2% of Local Plan allocations are on Grade 2 land. Since 2015 there has been no major development on none allocated sites classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land' (Grade 1/2/3a). See indicator 21 for further detail.

2.11.2 Minerals.

Current data suggests that Doncaster will have a sufficient supply of aggregates to meet Local Plan development needs in the short to medium term. The annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) was published in December 2023. This assesses

supply and forecasts future demand based on a rolling average of 10 years' sales data and other relevant local information, such as new permissions. See indicator 81 for further detail.

2.   Local Plan objectives monitoring results.

Table 1 below provides the summary results for the Local Plan objectives with positives and negative outcomes.
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Table 1 Monitoring results

Objective - Supporting the Conditions for Attracting Jobs and Growth	
Positives	Negatives
Jobs. Between 2015 and 2022 there has been a net increase of 10,725 (9.69%) employees, at an average annual rate of 1.38% despite the impacts of Covid and lockdown. This takes the average gain post 2015 to over 1% per annum for the first time in 5 years, meeting the Local Plan forecast target. There was a significant gain of over 7,000 employees in the 21-22 period indicating post Covid recovery. Overall, there have been significant growth in the 'Logistics' and 'Construction' sectors but those gains are tempered by losses in the 'Public Admin.,' Business Administration' and 'Education' sectors.	**Working age population**. The W.A.P. has fallen by 1.39% (2,700) between Census 2011 and Census 2021 in contrast to national rates that have risen by 3.72%. This could have implications for future labour supply.
	Productivity. GVA per filled job has increased by 16% since 2015 but remains 23% lower than the UK average.
	Productivity. Lack of representation in 'higher value' sectors such as I.T., Financial, Real Estate.
Employment land development is progressing above the expected average rate (primarily being driven by iPort).	**Wages** are increasing but still fall significantly short of the national average.
Land supply. There is sufficient remaining allocated employment land for the plan period.	**Qualifications**. The percentage of people qualified to Level 3 or above has increased in recent years but still falls 9% short of the national average. In the 'Education Skills and Training' sub domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 Doncaster is in the top 2% most deprived in England.
Businesses. The number of business enterprises has grown by over 20% in the last 8 years (more than regional and national rates) with nearly all the growth being in the 'micro business' sector (0-9 employees). There are big gains in the 'Freight Transport by Road' and the 'Domestic Building Construction' sectors.	**Employment activity rate.** The activity rate is higher than the SYCMA but is still 2 points lower than the national level
Productivity. Doncaster has a £6 Billion economy in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA rose by 18% (more than the national average) between 2015 and 2021 (latest data).	
Key sectors. The most important sectors for Doncaster in terms of the number of workers and productivity (GVA) are 'Logistics,' 'Health,' 'Manufacturing' and 'Education.'	

Objective - Supporting the Conditions for Attracting Jobs and Growth	
Positives	Negatives
Economic activity and Employment rates have both increased. Employment rates reached an eight year high in 2022. **Digital connectivity**. 99% of premises in the Borough have connectivity to Superfast broadband available. Doncaster is also part of the 'Gigabit Cities' project.	

Objective - Regeneration and Community Pride	
Positives	Negatives
Brownfield Land. Since 2015 63% of all new housing development has been on brownfield sites.	**Deprivation**. Levels of overall deprivation have increased between 2015 and 2019. 60% of Doncaster's population live in areas classified as 'Most Deprived' or 'Worse Than Average'. There are 4 communities in Doncaster ranked in the top 1% most deprived in England. Census 2021 includes an element of deprivation analysis that suggests Doncaster is more deprived than the National average.

Objective - Quality of Place.	
Positives	Negatives
Good design. The Local Plan has Policies adopted to ensure good residential design, compliance with national space standards and adaptable homes legislation. **Public Realm**. Significant 'public realm' developments have been completed. **Public art**. Several significant public art projects have been completed with further proposals in the pipeline. **Retail.** The number of Retail units and overall floor space have both increased between 2015 and 2022. A significant number of Retail employees were lost during Covid and lockdown, but an increase of 2,500 in 2022 increases the number to the highest-level post 2015. The number of Retail business has increased with much of the increase being in the 'micro business' (0-9 employees) size band and in particular in the 'Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet' sector indicating a shift away from traditional 'high street' retailing.	**Doncaster Town Centres.** Analysis of the Retail sector in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), employee numbers, units and floor space suggest the town centre is in decline. **Crime**. Recorded crime in Doncaster is 62% higher than the national average. Doncaster has the highest crime rate in South Yorkshire and is ranked in the top 5% of local authority areas in England for recorded crime per head of population.

Objective - Quality of Place.	
Positives	Negatives
Town Centres. Analysis of the Town Centres suggests that the Retail sector in Thorne and Mexborough in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), employee numbers, units and floor space remain relatively stable.	

Objective - Transport and Accessibility	
Positives	Negatives
Major schemes. Several major transport infrastructure schemes have been completed in recent years with others in the pipeline.	**Sustainable Transport**. Significantly more people travel to work by car or van than the national average and there has been little change between Census 2001, 2011 and 2021. Census data shows no shift towards use of public transport. **Cycling and Walking.** Less people use cycling or walking as a mode of travel than the national average.

Objective - Homes and Communities.	
Positives	Negatives
New homes. The number of new homes is above forecast requirements (averaging over 1,131 per annum). The development rate is approximately 22% ahead of the expected rate. **Affordable homes**. 18% of new homes are classed as 'affordable'. 361 affordable units were completed in 2022/23, the most in a single year in the Local Plan period. **Housing land supply.** There is a demonstrable 7-year housing land supply. **Affordability.** Homes in Doncaster are more affordable in contrast to the National average. Doncaster is in the top 10% most affordable places to work and buy a house.	**Population.** The Doncaster population has increased by a net 2% since 2011 (contrary to pre-Census 2021 forecasts that suggested higher growth) in contrast with the national figure of over 7%. **Council houses**. The Council house build programme has fallen behind schedule. There were zero completions in 2020/21/22 because of Covid. **Homeless.** The number of people classified as 'homeless and in priority need' is still 25% higher than the national average

Continues.

Objective - Health and Wellbeing	
Positives	Negatives
Air quality. Air quality has shown improvement in most areas.	**Life expectancy** for both males and females has increased but still falls short of the national average. **Healthy life expectancy.** The percentage of the life span spent in good health shows a downward trend since 2015 and is falling at a steeper rate than the national trend. The latest figures (2020) are the lowest in 10 years. **Physical activity.** Doncaster adults are less active than the regional and national averages. **Child poverty** rates have increased over the last 7 years and been on average 2.5% higher than the national average, however, the percentage of children living in a workless household has fallen sharply since 2015. **Deprivation.** 'Health inequalities' deprivation (as calculated by the indices of Multiple Deprivation) have worsened between 2015 and 2019. **Obesity levels.** 73% of adults (10% higher than the national average) are classified as overweight or obese by Public Health England. **Fast food**. Doncaster is in the top 20% of LAs for the concentration of fast-food outlets compared to population. Public Health England have shown a direct link between the number of outlets and deprivation. **Air quality**. analysis by Friends of the Earth shows that 57% of the Doncaster population live in areas with levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) higher than the World Health Organisation recommended safety limit.

Objective - Countryside and natural environment	
Positives	Negatives
. **Developer Contributions.** £2.6 million in developer contributions has been received for Public Open Space since 2015. There has been an expenditure of £4.13 million across 473 projects to improve existing spaces over the same period. **Biodiversity Net Gain** the BNG Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in September 2022. The Council is working on establishing 'habitat banks' capable of	**Green Space.** 11 of 88 communities in Doncaster are deficient in all types of 'green space'. **Positive Conservation Management**. There has been a fall (from 31% to 27%) in the number of Doncaster local wildlife and geological sites with 'positive conservation management' in place between 2022 and 2023.

Objective - Countryside and natural environment	
Positives	Negatives
delivering off site compensation for habitat loss. The first habitat bank on a 62-acre site at Red House Farm near Sandall Beat Wood was approved in Summer 2023, and the land was 'seeded' in September 2023.	

Objective - Climate change, flood risk and energy.	
Positives	Negatives
C02 Emissions per capita have fallen by 35% since 2005 mirroring both regional and national trends. **Waste recycling.** Doncaster recycles 45% of all domestic waste (2% more than Regional and National averages) and sends only 0.6% of waste to landfill (less than the national average). **Renewable energy.** Renewable electricity generation per household is higher than the national average and Doncaster is in the top 20% of local authorities for total output 59% of all generation comes from 'onshore wind'. Planning policy is in place to deliver at least 10% of 'energy through renewables' on new non-residential developments. **Flood risk zones**. There have been a small number of housing developments on none allocated sites in flood risk zone 3, and no employment or mixed-use development on none allocated sites.	**C02 Emissions** per capita are still 23% higher than the English average. Doncaster aims to be Carbon neutral by 2040, however, at the current rate of reduction that target will not be met.

Objective - Natural resources	
Positives	Negatives
Agricultural Land - There is no Grade 1 Agricultural Land in Doncaster. Only 2% of Local Plan allocations are on Grade 2 Agricultural land. There has been no development on none allocated sites on 'Best and most versatile agricultural land.' **Aggregates** -current data from the annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA (December 2023) suggests that Doncaster will have a sufficient supply of aggregates to meet Local Plan development needs in the short to medium term.	

3. Duty to Co-operate.

The 2011 Localism Act and introduced the duty to cooperate which places a legal duty on local planning authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. Local planning authorities must engage with each other and with other prescribed bodies. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (September 2023) expands upon the Localism Act.

The table below sets out the issues that the Council has been discussing with its neighbouring authorities and other public bodies under the duty to cooperate during the period April 2022 – March 2023.

Table 2 Duty to Cooperate – strategic issues with neighbouring authorities and public bodies.

Neighbouring authority	Issue/topic	Actions/responses
Barnsley Council	Consultation from Barnsley on a number of Supplementary Planning documents.	No issues raised or commented upon.
Bassetlaw District Council	Ongoing engagement regarding Statements of Common Ground (including endorsement and signing) and Apleyhead strategic employment site in the Bassetlaw Local Plan.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence and meetings.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Consultation on Local Plan evidence base documents such as Housing Land Supply Position Statement and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. Endorsement and signature for their Local Plan Statement of Common Ground.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence.
North Lincolnshire Council	Endorsement and signature for their Local Plan Statement of Common Ground.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Consultation from Rotherham on a number Supplementary Planning documents.	No issues raised or commented upon.
Selby District Council	Consultation on Local Plan evidence base documents for their Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment methodology and Pre-Submission Publication Selby District Local Plan.	Email response to say no issues to raise or comment upon.

Neighbouring authority	Issue/topic	Actions/responses
Sheffield City Council	On-going engagement regarding the Sheffield Local Plan and relevant evidence base.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence and meetings.
Wakefield Council	None	n/a
South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority (SYMCA)	On-going work on the Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground.	Involvement to reflect the Doncaster Local Plan and associated and relevant evidence base documents
Barnsley, Rotherham, Sheffield local authorities	On-going work with the other three South Yorkshire authorities on a South Yorkshire Plan. Working on Timescales / LDS and decision making.	Involvement through Waste Plan Working Group and email correspondence.
Various local authorities across the country – minerals	Commenting on movements and demand for minerals as and when required.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence.
Various local authorities across the country – waste	Commenting on movements and demand for waste as and when required.	Responses undertaken via email correspondence.

4.   Neighbourhood Plans

There are a number of key stages in the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan following approval of a Neighbourhood Area. These include pre-submission consultation and publicity on the draft plan, submission to the Council, independent examination of the plan and then a referendum in the Neighbourhood Plan Area on whether the plan should be made and become part of the statutory development plan.

Table 3. The current status of Neighbourhood Plans in Doncaster.

Neighbourhood Plan Area	Formal Stage	Status
Armthorpe	Adopted	Made 22/11/2018
Auckley	Adopted	Made 19/05/2023
Barnburgh & Harlington	Plan area designated	27/07/2023
Bawtry	Adopted	Made 21/11/2019
Burghwallis	Adopted	Made 24/11/2016
Edenthorpe	Adopted	Made 15/07/2021
Edlington	Adopted	Made 19/07/2018
Rossington	Adopted	Made 20/05/2022
Sprotbrough	Adopted	Made 23/09/2021
Stainforth	Regulation 14 NP consultation completed, and preliminary Neighbourhood Development Order consultation undertaken	Regulation 14 consultation completed 09/05/2022
Thorne and Moorends	Regulation 14 (undertaken in 2016) but not progressed.	Thorne and Moorends Town Council resolved at its Full Council Meeting on 14 February 2023 to complete the Neighbourhood Plan but acknowledged it would be essential to secure funding to support new evidence base. This may see a number of changes to the current version. Any significant changes are likely to require further consultation, including revisiting earlier statutory stages.
Tickhill	Adopted and Review being undertaken (Regulation 14 complete)	Made 24/11/2016

5. Evidence Base Update.

The following reports or studies have been completed in this monitoring period. They are available (or will be available) on our website.

Residential Land Availability (RLA) Report 22/23.

Annual survey of the supply of land for housing, sites with planning permission and completions.

Employment Land Availability (ELA) Report 22/23

Annual survey of employment land development, current permissions, and remaining supply.

Brownfield land register.

Register of Brown Field sites suitable for residential type development.

2023 Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)

The LAA provides information on monitoring, supply, and demand for aggregate minerals within Doncaster and Rotherham.

6. Review

6.1 Reviewing the Local Plan.

This report, its evidence base and data analysis will used to help inform any review of the effectiveness of the Local Plan and its Policies.

Appendices

Appendix 1 The Local Plan Monitoring Indicators.

Appendix 1 of this report is a table detailing the Monitoring Indicators and the current direction of travel as Red (wrong direction) Amber (static) or Green (right direction) against the targeted direction of travel. There is also a summary of the indicator analysis. See also: individual indicator data sheets in AMR Appendix 2.

Appendix 2 Indicator Summaries.

Appendix 2 of this report features an individual data sheet and analysis for most of the indicators.