



Redcar & Cleveland

Authority's Monitoring Report 2013-2014



this is Redcar & Cleveland

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1.1 What is the Authority's Monitoring Report?

The Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) is part of the Redcar & Cleveland Local Development Plan (LDP). Its key purpose is to assess the progress made in preparing the LDP, the effectiveness of LDP policies and to make any recommendations on where policy changes should be made.

The requirement to prepare the Authority's Monitoring Report replaced the requirement to prepare the LDF Annual Monitoring Report in 2012, following a change in legislation introduced by the Localism Act (2011). This AMR covers the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and also includes anything significant which has happened since this monitoring period.

1.2 Why do we need to monitor?

Monitoring is a vital process of plan and policy making. It reports on what is happening now and what may happen in the future. These trends are assessed against existing policies and targets to determine whether or not current policies are performing as expected, ensuring that the LDP continues to contribute to the attractiveness and functionality of Redcar and Cleveland as a place to live, work, invest and visit.

In 2004, a new system of development planning was introduced with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Section 35 of the Act required Local Planning Authorities to prepare an AMR every year and submit the report to Secretary of State by the end of each year.

The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement for the Council to submit an AMR to the Secretary of State, but still requires the Council to prepare an annual report to monitor the Council's progress in preparing its Local Development Plan and review the adopted policies contained within it. Under the provisions of the Act, the Council must make their monitoring report available to the public.



1.3 How is the report structured?

The report uses seven themes to assess the performance of planning policies and targets. Each theme summarises the key policy outcomes and targets together with a selection of performance indicators and findings during the review year 2013-2014. We have based this report on the main objectives of the adopted plan, rather than attempting to monitor every policy.

Chapter 2: A Place Called Redcar and Cleveland

This chapter sets out the social, environmental and economic characteristics, as well as the key issues in respect of the Local Authority's planning area.

Chapter 3: Monitoring Plan Making

This chapter provides a broad overview of any changes in national planning policy and monitors the progress made in meeting the targets and milestones established in the Local Development Scheme and the need for any new documents to be introduced. It also gives an indication of any adjustments that will be required to the LDS timetable since its publication in May 2014.

Chapters 4-7 of the AMR set out key monitoring data and indicator performance for each of the four monitoring topics.

- **Chapter 4: Economic Development**
- **Chapter 5: Housing**
- **Chapter 6: Transport and Community Infrastructure**
- **Chapter 7: Environmental Quality**

1.4 Further Information

The AMR is available to view at Redcar & Cleveland House, Redcar and on the Council's website - www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/localplan.

For further information please contact a member of the Strategic Planning Team at:

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Redcar and Cleveland is a borough of particular contrast and diversity. Situated to the south of the River Tees, it is the southernmost borough in the North East region. Geographically, it is the largest borough within the Tees Valley, covering nearly 25,000 hectares. The borough stretches from the River Tees to Cowbar, north of Staithes and extends into the North York Moors National Park. This Authority's Monitoring Report only refers to the area outside of the national park, as the National Park Authority is the local planning authority for development within the park.

2.1 People

At present the borough has a population of 134,900, based on Government's 2013 mid-year estimates. In May 2014, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its 2012 based sub-national population projections. These indicated that, based on a continuation of existing trends, the population of the borough would slightly decrease to 134,000 by 2037. The figures also project a significant increase in the retired population and significant decrease in the working age population during this period. The population is mostly white, with a non-white population of 1.4% (Census 2011), although the proportion of ethnic minorities has been slowly increasing in recent years. The population is split between the main urban conurbation of Redcar and Greater Eston, and the smaller commuter towns, rural villages and coastal settlements of East Cleveland and Guisborough.

The global economic downturn and slow recovery has meant that some communities are facing significant challenges. Our most deprived communities are predominantly located within the conurbation areas of Redcar and Greater Eston, although pockets of deprivation can also be found within the rural communities of East Cleveland. Despite these challenges, the latest figures for the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, show an improvement in the average score rank at 48, compared with 44 in 2004. It should be noted that the current rank is still slightly lower than the 2007 average score rank of 50.

2.2 Place

The borough is rich in both natural assets and a proud industrial heritage. The borough has a varied landscape, ranging from alluvial plain through to higher land in the moors and the Eston Hills, and is bordered by a coast of sandy bays and dramatic cliffs, with along a stretch of Heritage Coast of over 12km length. The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, a site of European importance for birds, also includes several sites of national importance.

There are twenty three square miles of North York Moors National Park within the borough¹, itself designated for its European and national importance for wildlife and habitat. Approximately 90% of the borough's land area is dominated by agriculture, which is in sharp contrast to the industrial landscape along the south bank of the River Tees.

The borough's heritage assets (outside of the North York Moors National Park) include a wide variety of sites and buildings; in total there are 567 listed heritage assets in the borough including 520 Listed Buildings, 30 Scheduled Monuments, 1 Historic Park and Garden, 1 Historic Landscape and 15 Conservation Areas.

¹ Please note that the North York Moors National Park Authority act as the Local Planning Authority for the part of the borough which falls inside the national park, and as such, any development within the national park is not covered by this AMR.

2.3 Economy

The borough houses a world-class economic powerhouse at South Tees, alongside high quality agricultural land and a National Park and Heritage Coast that provides the basis for a visitor economy.

The traditional employment base of Redcar and Cleveland has been manufacturing based on steel, chemicals and heavy engineering. However, over recent years there has been a decline in these industries which has impacted upon many communities in the borough and resulted in local unemployment rates rising sharply from 3,201 official claimants in March 2008, reaching a peak of 5,992 official claimants in January 2013. In recent months however, the number of official claimants within the borough has declined dramatically to 3,732 by June 2014, which is the lowest recorded number of claimants within the borough since October 2008. Whilst this shows that there are encouraging signs for the local economy, the proportion of the working age population who are recorded as official claimants, still remains above the regional and national averages.

The global recession has highlighted major flaws in the borough's economy, most notably its reliance on a few large employers and on external markets for products of steel and petrochemical processes. Responding to these challenges on an ad hoc and individual basis would have been an easy, but ultimately flawed response. Instead, the Council are putting in place a long term framework for development in the form of its Regeneration Masterplan, which has been revised and updated to reflect changes in the economic outlook.

2.4 Climate

The geography and rural nature of a significant part of the borough combined with an ageing population, pockets of disadvantage and isolated communities, results in a degree of vulnerability when incidences of severe weather are experienced. Having a good understanding of vulnerability to our climate, both now and in the future, is the key to resilient communities. Although individual weather events cannot be directly attributed to climate change, we know the kinds of impacts we may face because we have some experience of them already.

A partnership with the Met Office examining historical weather data has led to a much greater understanding of local trends in temperature, rainfall, wind speed and snowfall with interesting results obtained. Since 1961 there has been an observed average increase of 0.5°C in summer (April-September) and 0.3°C in winter. Summer rainfall has remained static over the last 50 years however winter rainfall has doubled since 1961, with over 80mm received during October and March. The analysis of local weather data is in line with Defra's UK Climate Projections and demonstrates that we are experiencing on average hotter, drier summers, while winters are becoming milder and wetter. There are, however, sometimes discrepancies from these general trends, with 2012 being registered as the second wettest year in the UK since records began back in 1910.

3.1 What significant changes have happened to the national planning system?

The Localism Act 2011

In November 2011 the Localism Act received royal assent. The Act has made significant changes to the planning system, with the overall aim of giving local communities a greater say over how planning affects their local area.

Under the Localism Act, the Government signalled its intention to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) as the regional tier to the planning system. The RSS for the North East of England now no longer forms part of the development plan as it was revoked through secondary legislation in April 2013.

The Act has also introduced a more localised layer to the planning system in the form of Neighbourhood Planning. Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums now have the ability to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan for how they would like their area to be shaped in the future. The Council has been at the forefront of the neighbourhood planning system, working with Skelton and Brotton Parish Council as one of the Government's neighbourhood planning frontrunners.

In addition to being able to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Act also gave local communities the power to grant Neighbourhood Development Orders, which allow certain forms of development to take place without the need to apply for planning permission, and the right to prepare Community Right to Build Orders which allow them to bring certain types of small-scale development forward that would benefit the community.

Other changes introduced through the Act are as follows:

- The Infrastructure Planning Commission has been replaced by the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit as the decision making body for major infrastructure projects; and
- The Government has introduced a duty to cooperate for Local Planning Authorities who are dealing with cross boundary issues.

National Planning Policy Framework

On the 27 March 2012, the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF is a key part of the Government's reforms to the planning system in England and provides a single policy framework, consolidating and replacing the majority of national guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs).

The NPPF sets out high level objectives, principles and policies on all planning policy matters. However, at the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is seen as a 'golden thread' running through both plan making and decision making. Local planning authorities are required to plan positively and approve all development proposals unless the adverse impacts would 'significantly' and 'demonstrably' outweigh the benefits. This establishes a clear expectation that acceptable development should always be permitted and not unnecessarily delayed.

To enable Council's to take account of the NPPF within their Local Development Plans, under the transitional arrangements, full weight continued to be given to local planning policies which were adopted after 2004 for a period of one year. Now that this transitional period has expired, due weight is given to local planning policies based on their consistency with the NPPF. Where there is a clear conflict between the local planning policy and the NPPF, the NPPF takes precedence.

Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management continues to set out the Government's current planning policy for waste management development. This policy should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

On the 23 March 2012, the Government published its new planning policy guidance for gypsy and traveller sites. Whilst published separately to the NPPF, it is the Government's intention to incorporate the policy guidance into the NPPF in the future.

The guidance continues to require local planning authorities to work closely with the traveller and settled communities in order to identify the need for new pitches within an area over a period of up to 10 years. Under the new guidance, need no longer has to be established through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA), but must be based on a robust and credible evidence base.

For the first time, the new policy framework also indicates that local planning authorities must demonstrate that they have a five year supply of traveller sites in order to meet the demand for pitches. Where a five year supply cannot be demonstrated, this will be a significant material consideration when determining planning applications for temporary planning permission for traveller sites.

3.2 What progress has been made on the Local Plan?

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a vital component to the successful management of the Local Development Plan as it sets out the Council's timetable for the preparation of its Local Plan.



In May 2014 the Council published its revised its LDS, in order to update the timetable for the preparation of the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan following the consultation on a Draft Local Plan which took place between October and December 2013.

In July 2014, the Publication Local Plan was not approved by the Borough Council and, therefore, will not be published in accordance with the timetable set out in the updated LDS (May 2014). In light of this, we have reviewed and updated the LDS to set out a new timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan. The revised LDS was published in October 2014.

Notwithstanding the above, the table below indicates the progress made between 1 April 2013 and 31 December 2014 against the timetable set out within the Council's latest published LDS (May 2014). The performance of each milestone has been rated as follows:

- Excellent - Indicates that the milestone has been reached, or has not been delayed by more than three months
- Fair - Indicates that the milestone was not met, and that progress has been delayed by more than three but not more than six months.
- Poor - Indicates that the milestone was not met, and that progress has been delayed by more than six months.

LDS target by December 2014	What was achieved by December 2014	Delay	Rating
Authority's Monitoring Report: Completion	Completed	None	Excellent
Local Plan	Scoping Report: Consultation was undertaken on the Local Plan Scoping Report in November 2012.	None	Excellent
	Draft Local Plan: The Draft Local Plan was published for consultation in October 2013.	None	Excellent
	Publication Local Plan: The Publication Local Plan was not approved by Borough Council in July 2014.	6+ months	Poor

Statement of Community Involvement

In order to take account of revisions to the Planning Regulations brought about by the Government's changes to the planning system, it has been necessary to update the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to ensure that it is consistent with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The updated SCI was published by the Council in July 2014 following approval by Borough Council.

Supplementary Planning Documents

The Council has prepared a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to provide detailed guidance on how the Council will deal with applications for particular types of development. The LDS no longer sets out timescales for the preparation of SPDs. However, an update is provided below on the SPDs which have been produced within the last year:

Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD

The original Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD was adopted by the Council in March 2010. Since its adoption, careful consideration has been given as to how the guidance within the SPD has been operating, how it could be improved and the types of development for which additional guidance would be useful.

It was therefore decided to update the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD to address the issues identified.

We consulted on a draft revised SPD in November 2012. After making changes to the document to take account comments made during the consultation, the revised SPD was adopted by the Council on 30 May 2013 and now replaces the previous version.

Developer Contributions SPD

The Developer Contributions SPD is being prepared to provide detailed guidance to developers on how and when the Council will seek to secure financial contributions to provide improved community infrastructure to support proposed development.

We consulted on the draft Developer Contributions SPD in June/July 2014 and it is anticipated that this will be adopted in December 2014.

Sustainable Drainage SPD

The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) introduced a range of new responsibilities for Local Authorities, including establishing Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) for the borough.

As part of its responsibilities as the LLFA, the Council must establish approval bodies for design, building and operation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

A Sustainable Drainage SPD is therefore being prepared to provide guidance on how the Council will establish the approval body for the design, building and operation of SuDS as part of the planning process.

We consulted on the draft Sustainable Drainage SPD in August 2014. However, since consultation on the draft SPD took place, the Government has published a consultation document setting out an alternative approach to the one envisaged in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), potentially delivering sustainable drainage systems through changes to the current planning regime.

The Council has therefore decided to delay the preparation of the Sustainable Drainage SPD until the outcomes of the Government's consultation are known.

Background Studies

Since the last AMR, there have been various background studies completed to support the production of the Local Plan. Studies completed include:

- **Redcar & Cleveland Surface Water Management Plan: Outline Solutions to Flooding Problems at Key Sites in Eston and Guisborough** (May 2013)
- **Redcar & Cleveland Employment Land Review Update** (August 2013)
- **Background Evidence Paper: Housing Supply Requirements & Site Allocations** (September 2013)
- **Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan** (September 2013)
- **Whole Plan Viability Testing – Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan (2013)** (October 2013)
- **Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland Affordable Housing Offsite Contributions Study** (October 2013)
- **Redcar & Cleveland Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2014/15 – 2018/19** (June 2014), later updated in September 2014.
- **Redcar & Cleveland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Update** (July 2014)

3.3 Skelton Industrial Estate Local Development Order

In order to help stimulate investment in Skelton Industrial Estate, the Council has worked with Skelton Business Forum to prepare a Local Development Order for the existing industrial estate.

The Local Development Order is designed to help existing businesses grow and new businesses to set up on the industrial estate by granting planning permission (subject to conditions) for specific types of development that are within traditional industrial and business sectors (i.e. those falling within use classes B1: Offices and Light Industrial uses; B2: General Industrial uses; and B8: Storage and Distribution).

A draft LDO for the Industrial Estate was published for consultation in January 2013. After making changes to the LDO to take account comments made during the consultation, the LDO was submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. It was formally adopted by the Council on 30 May 2013.

The LDO is time limited until 31 March 2017. The Council will carefully monitor and review how successful the LDO has been since its implementation when deciding whether to extend its lifetime.

3.5 Duty to Co-operate

The Council has a long established working relationship with neighbouring authorities on strategic and cross boundary issues. Regular meetings are held between officers of the Tees Valley authorities to discuss cross boundary and strategic issues and identify areas of work to be prepared jointly between the authorities.

Recent examples of studies which have been prepared jointly between Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and its neighbouring authorities include:

- SHMA update – prepared jointly with Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool Borough Council's;
- Whole Plan Viability Testing Study – prepared jointly with Middlesbrough Borough Council;
- Affordable Housing Offsite Contributions Study – prepared jointly with Middlesbrough Borough Council; and
- Strategic housing sites model assessment report – prepared jointly with Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Where necessary, the Council has also worked in partnership with neighbouring authorities to prepare Local Development Documents covering cross boundary issues. This includes the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste DPDs which were adopted in September 2011.

With regard to the preparation of the new Local Plan, the Council has continued to have ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities and other duty to co-operate bodies on strategic and cross boundary issues.

The Council contacted all neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees to inform them of the consultation on the Local Plan Scoping Report in November 2012 and invite any representations that they had on the proposals. The Council has also invited all neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees to have a one-to-one meeting with Council officers to discuss any strategic and cross boundary issues which have been raised as a result of the publication of the Draft Local Plan for consultation in October 2013.

A duty-to-cooperate statement will be published alongside the Local Plan to detail how the Council has met its duty to cooperate on the preparation of its Local Plan.

Next Steps

- Following the Council's decision not to approve the Publication Local Plan in July 2014, the Council will focus on updating its evidence base to support the preparation of a new Local Plan in accordance with the revised LDS. It is expected that consultation on a new Draft Local Plan will take place in September 2015.

4. Economic Development

Indicator Number	Indicator	Output	Trend
ED1	Amount of available employment land	533.4ha	Down
ED2	Employment land developed	2.39ha	Down
ED3	Total employment floorspace developed (by use class)	B1: 1056m ² B2: 5625m ² B8: 5400m ²	Down Up Up
ED3	Percentage of vacant floorspace within town and district centres (town centre uses only)	9.3%	Up
ED4	Percentage of town centre units in poor/very poor condition (town centre uses only)	6.5%	Up
ED5	In-centre floorspace permitted/developed (gross)	Permitted: 418m ² Developed: 574m ²	Up Down
ED6	Out of centre floorspace permitted/developed (gross)	Permitted: 2,082m ² Developed: 2,592m ²	Down Up
ED7	Number of tourism/leisure facilities permitted/developed	Permitted: 11 Developed: 12	Up Up

This section aims to evaluate the Council's performance against its economic development policies. Economic development involves any development which creates jobs and wealth and includes business, industrial, town centre, leisure and tourist development. The following analysis includes a broad range of indicators to show the amount of economic development within the borough within the last year, together with an assessment of the vitality and viability of the town and district centres.

4.1 Employment Land

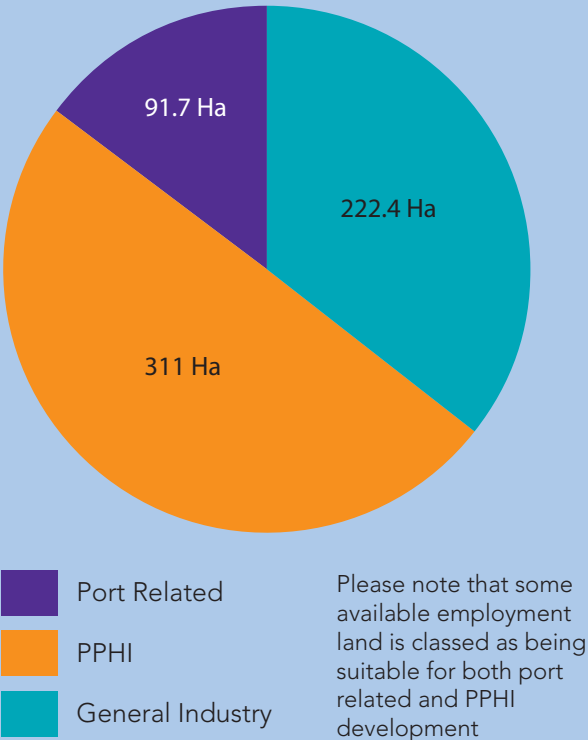
Within the year 2.39 hectares of safeguarded employment land was taken up for employment development, which is slightly lower than the 2.8 hectares of employment land which was developed the previous year. However, there has been a significant rise in the amount of employment floorspace developed within the year, with over 12,000m² of B1, B2 and B8 floorspace being completed within the monitoring period. This reflects the fact that a number of developments took place on land which was already considered to be developed.

There were a total of 8 developments completed on safeguarded employment land within the year including a 5,400m² storage building on Wilton International and a 3,725m² extension to the Elring Klinger building on Kirkleatham Business Park. A £38m pulverised coal injection plant was also completed at the SSI steel works in Redcar, which has enabled the plant to become more competitive by using cheaper coal to power the blast furnace and increasing production.

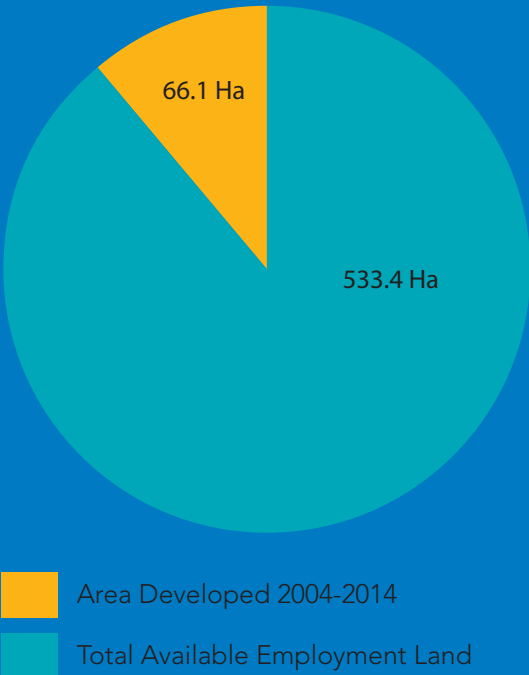
The Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart was opened in April 2014 and includes 4,722m² of new office floorspace, including a new Council debating chamber. However, as the building was completed after the monitoring period, the floorspace provided will be recorded in next year's monitoring report.

Over 530 hectares of employment land remains available for development within the borough, although just over 220 hectares of this is suitable for general industrial use. The remainder is safeguarded for port, chemical and steel related industries.

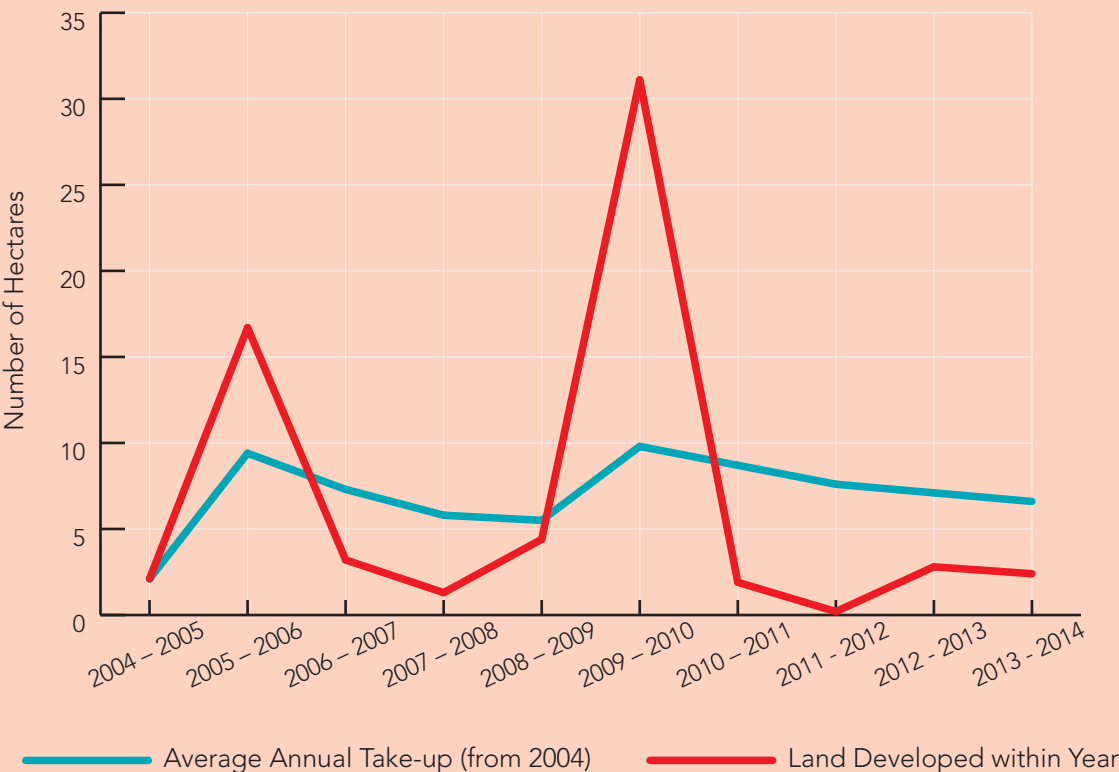
Amount of available employment land by type



Amount of land developed since 2004 as a percentage of all available employment land



Amount of employment land developed by year



4.2 Town, District and Local Centres

Whilst there have been improvements in the borough's town and district centres in recent years, with a reduction in the number of vacancies and an overall improvement in the visual appearance of centres, the percentage of vacant floorspace within the borough's centres increased within the monitoring year from 6.8% in 2013 to 9.3% in 2014. In addition, the number of units considered to be in a poor or very poor condition also increased within the year from 5.9% in 2013 to 6.5% in 2014. Whilst this is an unwelcome increase, the vacancy rate still compares favourably to the national average vacancy rate of 12.2% and demonstrates that the borough's centres are continuing to stay resilient to increasing competition from out of centre retail destinations and online retailing.

With the exception of Redcar, Marske and Low Grange Farm, all of the borough's centres experienced an increase in the number of vacancies within the year with the most significant increases being experienced at Eston and Saltburn, with the number of vacancies increasing by 6.9% and 6.4% respectively within the year. However, on the other hand, there were significant improvements at Marske District Centre which experienced a decrease in the number of vacancies from 10.2% in 2013 to just 5.4% in 2014.

Despite the overall increase in the number of units considered to be in a poor or very poor condition within the borough's centres, this masks a mixed picture, with the number of units considered to be in poor or very poor condition reducing at Marske, Guisborough and Saltburn district centres in the year. Despite this, there were increases in the number of units considered to be in a poor or very poor condition at Redcar, Eston and Loftus, with the most significant increase recorded at Loftus, where the number of units increased by 3.1% within the year.

Loftus continues to be the most poorly performing centre in the borough with a vacancy rate of 23.6% and the proportion of units considered to be in a poor or very poor condition now reaching 25%. The Council recognises that urgent action needs to be taken to address this decline and is seeking to consolidate the centre through the emerging Local Plan, alongside other proposals to improve the public realm.

Within the year, just 574m² of floorspace was completed within the borough's centres for main town centre uses. This is a significant decrease on the previous year and is largely due to no large scale completions being recorded within the monitoring period.

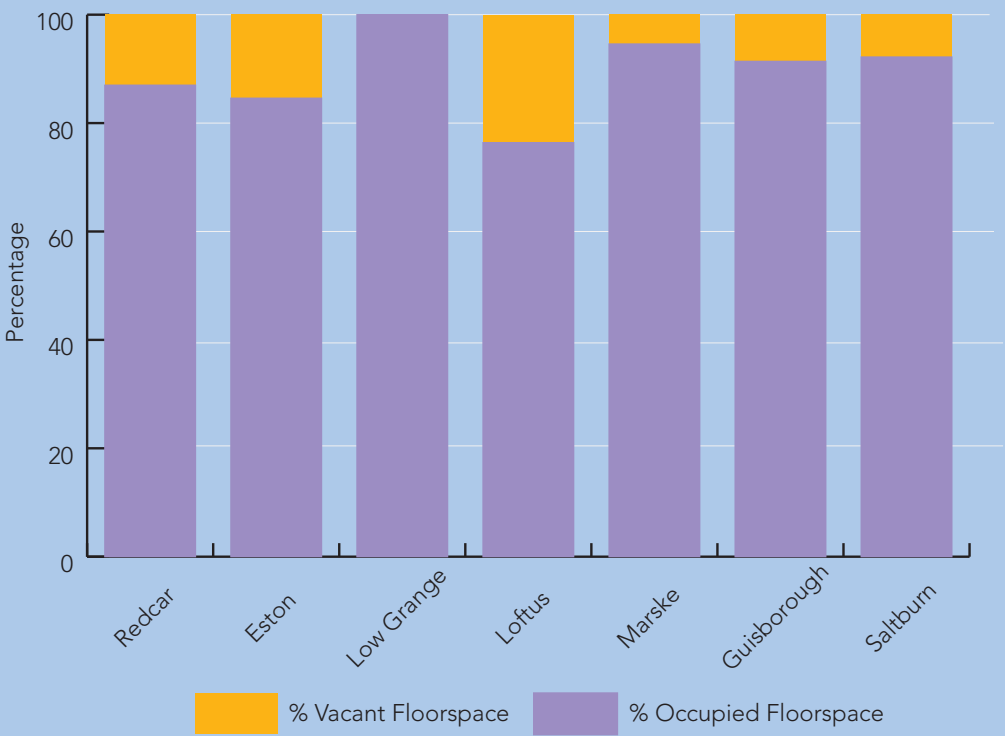
There was a total of 6,426m² of floorspace completed for main town centre uses in out of centre locations within the year. Whilst this figure is significantly greater than the amount of floorspace completed for main town centre uses within existing centres within the year and also represents an increase on the amount of out-of-centre floorspace completed in the previous year, this is primarily as a result of one large scale completion, with the opening of a new Asda superstore at Skelton. This superstore created over 4,500m² (gross) of the total floorspace completed within the year. The planning application was subject to a sequential assessment and retail impact assessment to ensure that there were no suitable in-centre or edge of centre sites available to accommodate the development and that the superstore would not have a significant adverse impact upon the vitality and viability of existing centres.

Other notable completions within the year include the creation of a new retail pod at Cleveland Retail Park which is now operated by Carphone Warehouse and the change of use of a former industrial unit at Skelton Industrial Estate into a soft play facility.

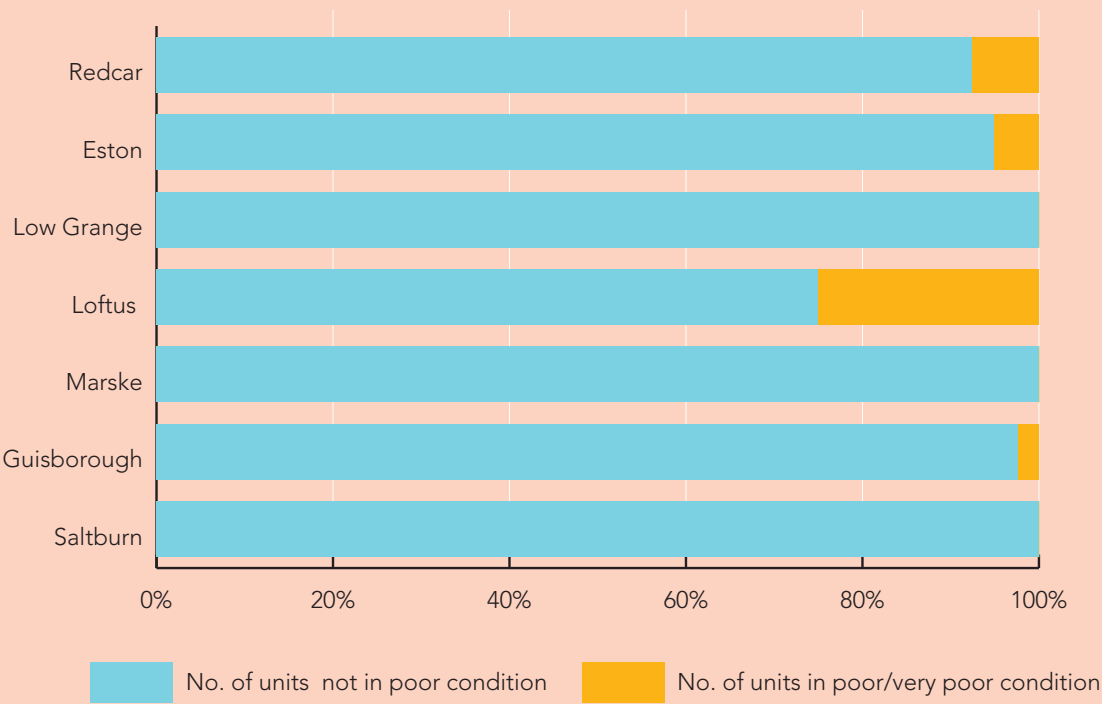
Whilst not completed within the monitoring year and not creating any new retail floorspace, planning permission was also granted to subdivide and convert the former Focus DIY unit at Cleveland Gate Business Park, Guisborough into 2no. smaller retail units. These works were completed in September 2014 and the units are now occupied by Aldi and Iceland.

In July 2008 the Council adopted its interim hot food takeaway policy in order to protect the vitality and viability of the borough's town, district and local centres from an over proliferation of hot food takeaways. The policy indicates that there should be no more than 5% hot food takeaways within each centre when measured as a proportion of all commercial units within the centre. Most of the borough's centres currently exceed this

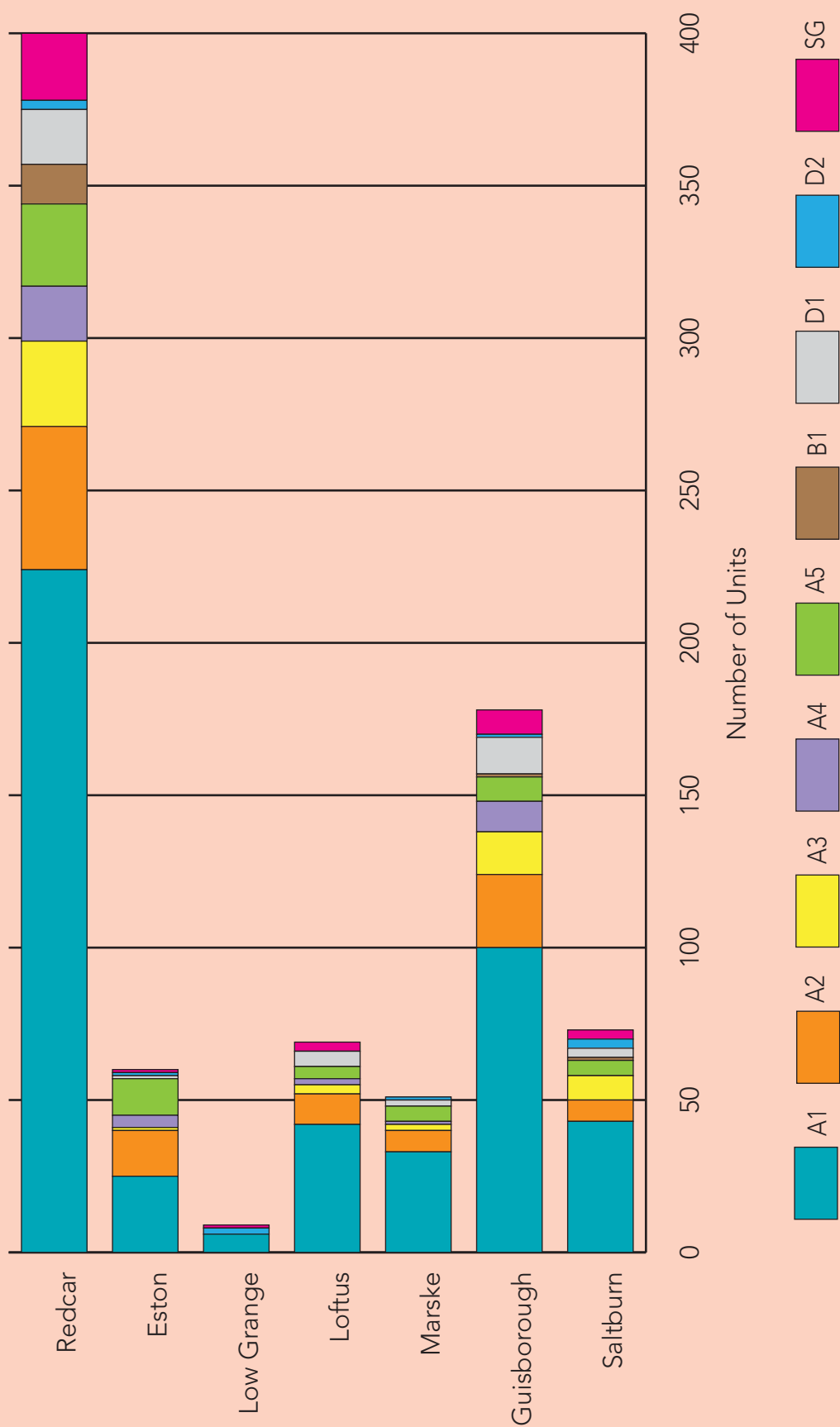
Percentage of vacant floorspace as a proportion of total floorspace for town and district centres (Town Centre Uses only)



Percentage of floorspace in poor or very poor condition within town and district centres (Town Centre Uses only)



Number of units within each centre by Use (Town Centre Uses only)



threshold, with the exception of Low Grange Farm and Guisborough District Centres. Since its adoption, the policy has generally been successful in ensuring that there has been no significant increase in the number of hot food takeaways within each of the borough's centres. Within the year just one planning application was determined for a new hot food takeaway within one of the borough's centres. This planning application was refused as the proposals were contrary to the policy and this decision has since been upheld at appeal. The Council is seeking to retain the hot food takeaway policy through the emerging Local Plan.

4.3 Tourism and Leisure

Within the year there were a total of twelve leisure and tourism schemes completed, which is a significant increase on the five schemes completed in the previous year. Completions included external alterations and refurbishment works at Saltburn Leisure Centre, a range of new buildings for local sports clubs, including a new pavilion at New Marske Sports Club, and a new dance studio at Milbank Terrace, Redcar.

The new £31m Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart facility opened in April 2014. The building includes a new leisure centre which provides a 25 metre swimming pool, training and leisure pool, dance hall, fitness suite, gymnasium and sports hall. The building also includes business space and community facilities, including a new debating chamber for the Council. As the building did not open until April 2014, the floorspace provided will be included in next year's monitoring report.

There were also another eleven leisure and tourism schemes which were permitted within the year, which is a considerable increase on the five applications permitted last year. These include a new pavilion at New Marske Sports Club, the change of use of a vacant industrial unit to a fitness centre at Skippers Lane Industrial Estate and a mixed use site at Field Good Farm Dunsdale, which includes tourist accommodation and leisure uses. A number of these schemes were also completed within the year, with some applications being for retrospective planning permission.

Next Steps

- Through the preparation of the new Local Plan, the Council will seek to address any deficiencies in economic development land and allocate more where necessary. Policies will also be put in place to protect the vitality and viability of designated centres. The Strategic Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update (August 2011) and updated Employment Land Review (September 2013) will be used to inform any decisions.
- Due to the delays in preparing the emerging Local Plan, it may be necessary to update some of the Council's evidence base to ensure that it remains up-to-date.

Indicator Number	Indicator	Output	Trend
H1	Number of net additional dwellings	228	Up
H2	Number of new housing completions	366	Up
H3	Percentage of new housing completions in conurbation area and rural area	60.7% Conurbation 39.3% Rural	Up Down
H4	Percentage of new housing completions built on previously developed land	63.1% Brownfield 36.9% Greenfield	Up Down
H5	Number of affordable dwellings completed	86	Down
H6	Number of demolitions	138	Down
H7	Number of vacant properties more than (6 months)	233 Registered Provider 783 Private	Up Up

To retain our skilled workers, and attract others to the borough, we need to provide a high quality residential offer and attractive neighbourhoods to meet a variety of needs and aspirations. This section of the AMR reports on progress against the targets set out in Core Strategy policies CS2; CS13; CS14; CS15; CS16 and CS17.

5.1 Major Planning Applications

The following major planning applications for housing have been approved in the last monitoring year:

R/2013/0830/RMM reserved matters application for erection of 328 no. dwellings at Galley Hill Farm, Guisborough.

R/2013/0727/FFM 85 no. dwellings at former Jackson's Field Allotments, Enfield Chase, Guisborough.

R/2013/0200/OOM outline planning permission for up to 46 no. dwellings at Cragg Hall Farm, Carlin How.

R/2013/0001/FFM substitution of 23 no. house types on previously approved housing scheme at Hummersea Hills, Loftus.

R/2011/0589/FFM demolition of existing buildings and erection of 41 no. dwellings at Spencerbeck Farm, Ormesby.

R/2013/0858/FFM 14 no. dwellings at former Education Development Centre, Wilton Lane, Guisborough.

R/2013/0765/OOM outline planning permission for up to 10 no. dwellings on land off Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe.

R/2013/0742/FFM modification to layout and substitution of house types on previously approved housing scheme at former Redcar & Cleveland College Connexions Campus, Redcar Lane, Redcar.

R/2013/0540/FFM 14 no. dwellings at Errington Primary School, Marske.

R/2013/0427/FFM substitution of 30 no. house types for 28 no. new house types on previously approved housing scheme at Havelock Park, Redcar.

R/2013/0425/FFM conversion of former restaurant and public house to 10 no. apartments at 192 High Street, Eston.

R/2013/0124/FFM change of use from community youth centre to 20 no. residential apartments at former Redcar Youth Centre.

R/2013/0097/FFM 27 no. dwellings at Newcomen Primary School, Redcar.

R/2012/0919/FFM 22 no. dwellings at former Chaloner Primary School site, Park Lane, Guisborough.

R/2011/0926/FFM 51 no. dwellings at former Rosecroft School site, Loftus.

R/2012/0757/OOM renewal of extant outline planning permission for mixed use development comprising of up to 250 no. dwellings and B1 office/light industrial development at Mannion Park, Grangetown.

R/2013/0772/F3M improvement works to gypsy and traveller site at the Haven, South Bank, including the provision of new amenity buildings and an increase in the overall number of residential pitches on the site from 13 no. to 18 no.

5.2 Housing numbers

The Local Plan must make provision for an adequate number of houses within the plan area for the next 15 years. Previously this figure was based on the housing requirements set out in the Regional Strategy (RS). However, the RS was revoked by the government in April 2013 and no longer forms part of the statutory development plan.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that housing requirements should be determined locally and be based on sound evidence to ensure that local plans meet 'the full objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the market area', drawing on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The NPPF also advises that local plans should be 'aspirational but realistic' and that local authorities should seek to 'boost significantly the supply of housing'.

The Tees Valley SHMA was updated in 2012, replacing the initial study completed in 2009. It should be noted, however, that the original study and the review were prepared in accordance with 2007 practice guidance, and chiefly provide an assessment of housing need rather than market demand. This is because, at that time, local authority housing numbers were determined separately through Regional Strategies. Therefore, the current SHMA provides only limited analysis of overall housing demand within the study area. Further analysis was, therefore, undertaken to develop an 'objective assessment of housing need' in the borough to inform preparation of the Local Plan.

The Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan Publication document advocated a minimum net requirement of 260 dwellings per annum for the fifteen-year period from 2015/16 to 2029/30. Although the plan was not approved and is, therefore, of limited relevance, the minimum requirement is considered to be appropriate, as it is based on the latest household projections, plus sufficient dwellings to meet the Council's corporate objective to increase the population of the borough by 2,500 people over the next ten years.

As such, the net requirement of 260 dwellings per annum is considered to represent the most recent and advanced analysis of housing need and will remain the target requirement unless it is superseded by other evidence. The AMR will, therefore, report on the progress of housing completions within the borough against this target.

With regard to the shortfall identified since the start of the plan period, as the level of population decline experienced within the borough over the last census period (2001-2011) exceeded the shortfall in housing supply within plan period, it is considered that this should no longer form part of the housing supply as there is no evidence of unmet demand. Therefore, a base year of 2012 has been used and any over/undersupply against the housing target of 260 dwellings per annum measured from that point forward.

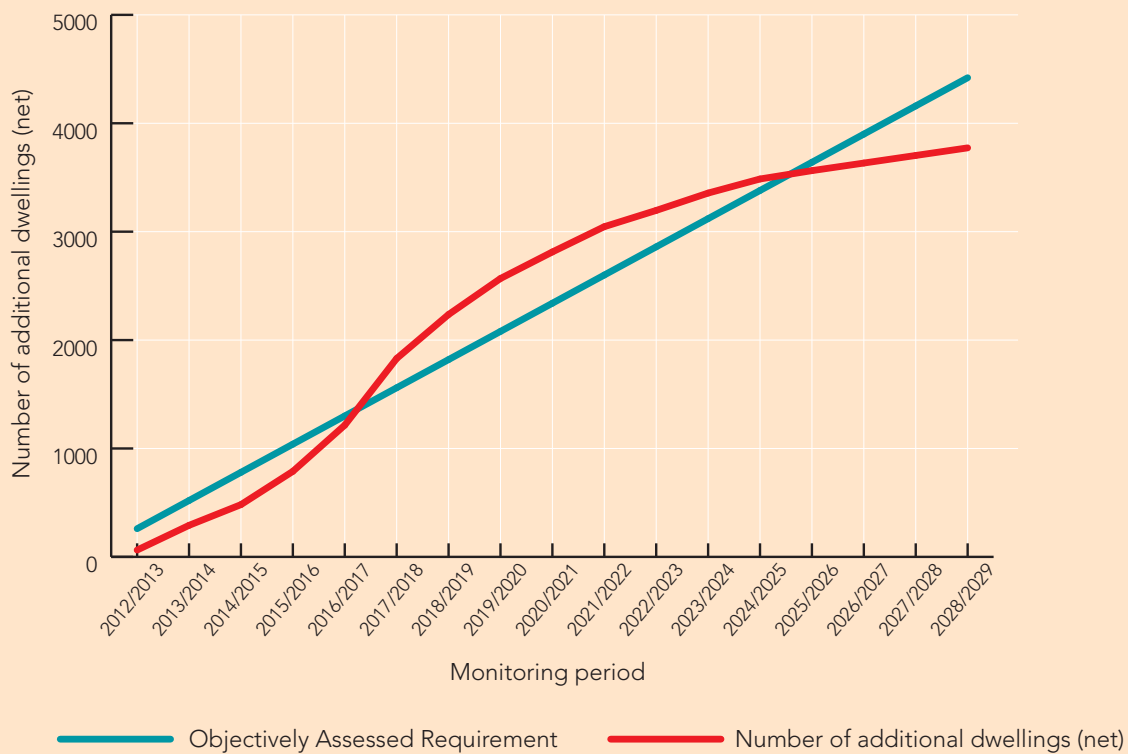
In 2013/14, the number of new housing completions in the borough increased by approximately 40% to 366 dwellings, from 259 in the previous year. The number of net additional dwellings also increased dramatically from 61 in 2012/13 to 228 in 2013/14. However, despite the significant increase in the net additional dwellings completed within the borough within the monitoring period, the number of completions remained below the target of 260 net additional dwellings.

One of the key reasons for the rate of net additional dwelling completions not meeting the housing target was the high number of demolitions on the Coast & Country redevelopment site at the Closes, Redcar within the monitoring year. However, these losses will be replaced in the next few years as new dwellings are provided on the site.

A housing trajectory has been prepared to show the performance since the baseline year and commitments for future years against the housing requirements. As can be seen in the graph below, towards the end of the plan period it is expected that there will be a shortfall between current commitments and the Council's housing requirements. The Council will, therefore, seek to ensure that an adequate number of housing allocations are made through the emerging Local Plan to ensure that the housing targets are met, including the current shortfall.

Housing Requirement Summary Table

Year	Completions	Losses	Net	Objectively Assessed Target	
				Requirement	Performance
2012-13	259	198	61	260	-199
2013-14	366	138	228	260	-32
2012-14 (Total)	625	336	289	520	-231



5.3 Five Year Supply

The National Planning Policy Framework indicates that the Council should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against its requirements, with an additional buffer of 5% to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. However, where there has been a persistent under delivery of housing this buffer should be increased to 20%.

When assessing the Council's five year housing land supply, as the Council has consistently fallen short of meeting its housing requirements in recent years, the 20% buffer has been applied.

Within the monitoring year, the Council recognised that it could not demonstrate a five year supply of specific deliverable sites (including the 20% buffer), as a result, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the NPPF, the Council's policies for housing supply were considered out-of-date in the decision making process. This resulted in a number of housing developments being approved outside of development limits.

In June 2014, the Council updated its five year supply position, which indicated that the Council did now have a five year supply of deliverable housing sites (including the 20% buffer). This was partly as a result of the significant number of dwellings which had been permitted on housing sites outside of development limits within the monitoring period. This position was updated further in September 2014 to take account of the delay in bringing forward the emerging Local Plan. This demonstrated that the Council continued to have a five year supply of deliverable housing sites. However, the cushion had been significantly reduced. The delay in Local Plan preparation means that, in order to maintain at least 5 years' worth of housing supply, additional land will only be added to the supply through the planning application process.

The Council's latest position with regard to its five year supply can be found on the Council's website at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/localplan.

5.4 Location of new housing

Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy sets out a broad locational target of approximately 70% of new development to be built in the conurbation area (Greater Eston, South Tees, Redcar and Marske) and approximately 30% in the remaining 'rural area' (Guisborough and East Cleveland).

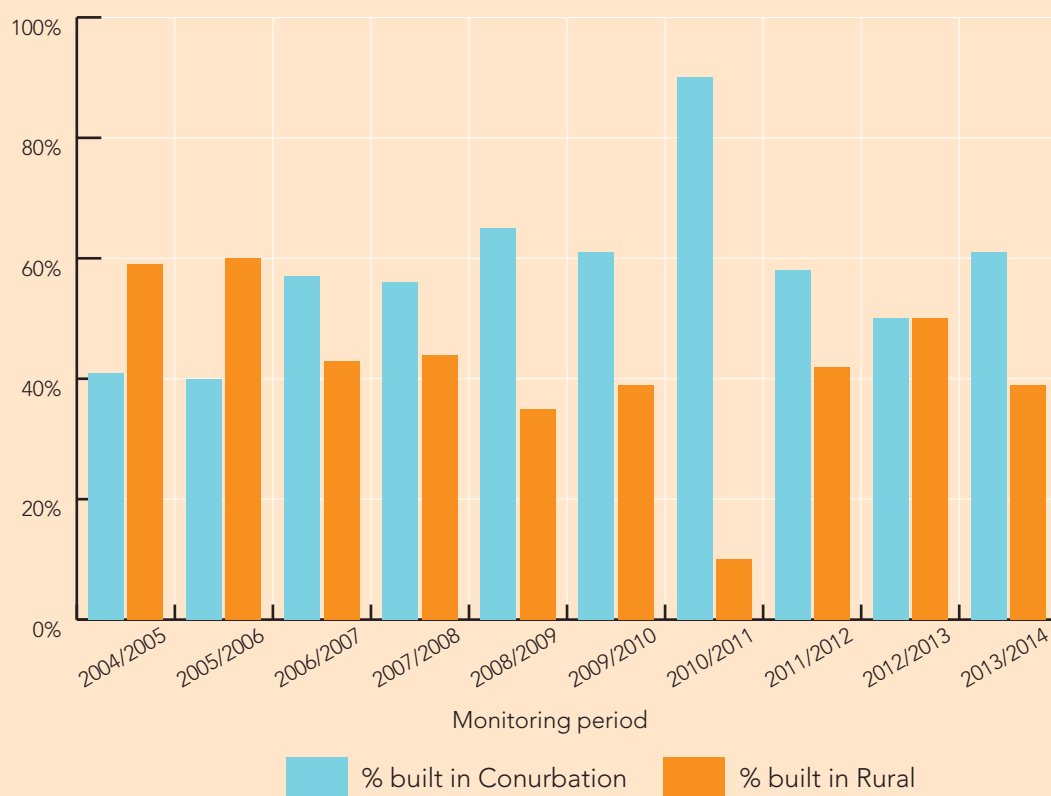
In 2013/14, 61% of gross new housing development (222 dwellings) was located in the conurbation area. Whilst this is an improvement on the 50% delivered in the previous year, it still falls below the 70% target.

Overall, since 2004, just 58% of new housing development has been built within the conurbation. Therefore, over the plan period, it is clear that the desired split of development is not being achieved.

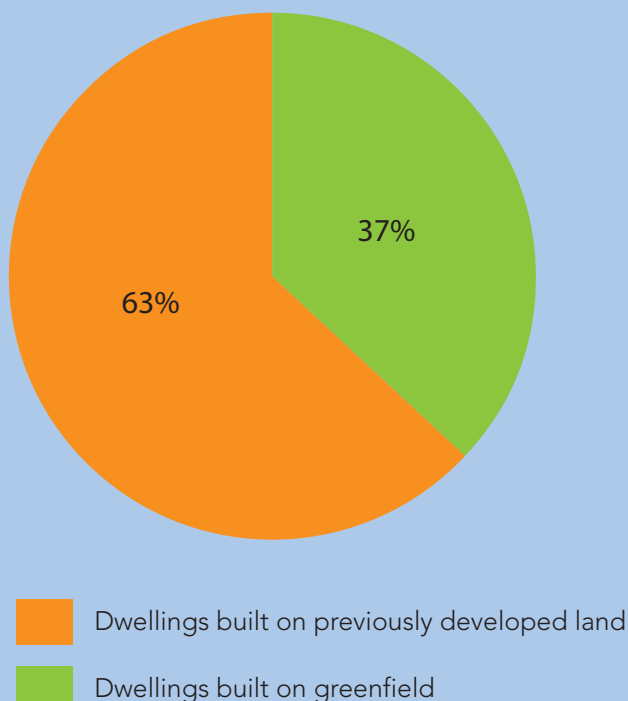
It is important to note however that the locational strategy was prepared during a period of sustained economic growth and was based on the Council delivering significant numbers of housing on large regeneration sites within the conurbation, particularly at Low Grange Farm. Due to the recession and subsequent unprecedented cuts in public funding, which are required to make such projects viable, it is unlikely that these large scale regeneration projects will be delivered as originally envisaged. The locational strategy will, therefore, be reviewed through the new Local Plan.

A total of 63% of all housing completions within the year were on previously developed land. This was a slight increase on the figure recorded in the previous year and is above the target of 60% set out in the Core Strategy. Over the plan period as a whole since 2004, the number of dwellings completed on previously developed land is also above the Core Strategy target at 61%.

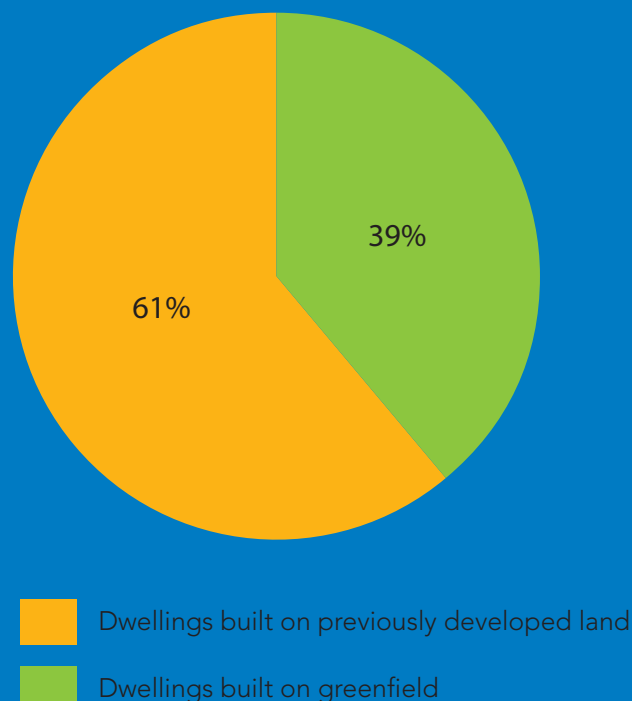
Percentage of new dwellings built in the conurbation and rural areas (gross)



New dwellings 2013-14



New dwellings 2004-14



5.5 Affordable housing

House prices in the borough remain lower than other parts of the UK. According to Land Registry House Price Index for June 2014, the average house price in the borough was £100,116, which is broadly comparable with the previous year. This compares to an England and Wales average of £172,011 and North East average of £98,555. Nonetheless, many first time buyers and households with marginal incomes are still unable to afford their own property. In addition, pressures on the existing social housing stock have increased as households attempt to access affordable housing. The Government has introduced its Help to Buy scheme to try and address some of these issues by providing wider access to mortgages for potential home buyers who only have a 5% deposit.

During 2013/14, there were 86 units of affordable housing delivered in the borough. This was through a mixture of HCA-funded new build schemes; empty homes brought back into an affordable use; mortgage rescue scheme completions; and affordable housing within private developments secured through S106 planning agreements. Whilst this is slightly below the Council's annual target, this is due to a delay in the completion of one scheme by our Registered Provider partners. This scheme will now be completed during 2014/15, meaning that affordable housing delivery during that financial year is likely to be higher than originally anticipated.

The Council has worked with a number of registered providers of social housing to develop an Affordable Homes Programme for the borough, covering 2012-15. Through these partnerships, we have secured £4.18m of grant funding from the HCA to deliver 226 new affordable homes by March 2015. In addition, allocations of approximately £1.9m were made under Rounds 1 and 2 of the HCA's Empty Homes Fund, in order to bring a further 91 long-term empty homes back into an affordable use.

5.6 Design of new housing

Good quality housing design can improve social well-being and quality of life by reducing crime, improving public health, easing transport problems and increasing property values.

A 'Building for Life 12' assessment scores the design quality of housing developments against the 12 Building for Life criteria developed by the Design Council. This replaces the original 20 criteria established under initial Building for Life scheme. The criteria cover four areas; environment and community; character; streets, parking and pedestrianisation; and design and construction.

Whilst 'Building for Life 12' provides a useful tool for assessing the design quality of housing developments, it is not a requirement for the Council or developers to undertake an assessment and subsequently no assessments have been undertaken within the monitoring period. However, the Council will encourage developers to score their proposals against the 'Building for Life 12' criteria in order to secure a high standard of design in all new developments.

5.7 Empty homes

Empty homes have a significant impact on the overall condition of the borough's housing stock as well as the neighbourhoods in which they are located. They can detract from the quality of the local environment and can cause significant problems for local residents. In April 2014, 783 private dwellings and 233 registered provider dwellings had been empty for six months or more.

This represents an increase in the number of empty homes recorded in the previous year but, due to changes in the way Council Tax information is collected, last year's figures were a mid-year position. Seasonal trends in the number of empty homes generally display a decrease to the middle of the year, which then rises towards the year-end. Analysis of April-to-April data continues to show a downward trend year-on-year.

Building on the successful empty homes partnership that commenced in 2010, we have worked with Coast & Country Housing and two local social enterprises to secure an additional £1.9m of funding to bring 91 long-term empty homes in the borough back into use by March 2015. Through the scheme, young people are offered a mixture of accredited training, construction skills and on-site experience. The scheme has attracted



national awards, by demonstrating the combined benefits of addressing the blight that long-term empty homes have on local communities and dealing with youth worklessness.

A separate bidding round for community-led developers, such as charities, smaller not-for-profit organisations and community and voluntary groups, to bid for a share of the HCA's Empty Homes Programme funding was undertaken in 2012. The Council supported three bids made by community groups in this borough, and all were successful in securing funding totalling £492,000. We continue to support those community groups who have secured funding up to March 2015.

Further bids to the HCA's Affordable Homes Programme 2015-18 have recently been successful in being allocated funding. These schemes will bring a further 90 long-term empty properties back into an affordable use across the borough by March 2018.

5.8 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

The Council currently has one designated gypsy and traveller site at The Haven, South Bank.

During the year, the site has been improved and redeveloped using a £860,000 grant secured from the Homes and Communities Agency's Traveller Pitch Fund. The redevelopment of the site resulted in an increase in the total number of residential pitches on the site from 13 to 18.

The Government's Planning Policy for Gypsy and Traveller sites was published alongside the NPPF in March 2012 and sets out the national planning framework for gypsy and traveller sites. Included within the policy, is the requirement for the council to demonstrate and update annually details of its five year supply of traveller sites required to meet its identified need.



The Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (2009) provides the basis of the Council's evidenced need for pitches and indicated that there was a total requirement for 13 pitches within the borough by 2021.

Using this evidence as a baseline, the Council has continued to keep up to date with the need for pitches within the borough by monitoring unauthorised encampments and keeping track of the number of pitches available at the designated traveller site at The Haven, South Bank.

Using this evidence and rolling forward the household formation rate of 3% per annum, the Council has identified the following need over the next five years.

Year	No. of pitches required
2014/2015	15
2015/2016	16
2016/2017	16
2017/2018	17
2018/2019	17

The table demonstrates that the Council continues to have a five year supply of traveller sites available in order to meet identified needs.

The Council is currently in the process of preparing an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the borough which will form the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

Next Steps

- Continue to review the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) on an annual basis to keep an up to date record of the supply of potential housing land available within the borough.
- Update and review the Council's five year supply of deliverable housing sites.
- Prepare an update of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in order to provide an up-to-date evidence base of housing needs within the borough, to inform the preparation of policies for the emerging Local Plan.
- Prepare an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the borough in order to provide an up-to-date evidence base for the preparation of policies for the emerging Local Plan.
- Ensure that sufficient housing allocations are made through the Local Plan to ensure that the Council can fully meet its objectively assessed housing needs.
- Consider the spilt of housing contained in the Core Strategy locational strategy as part of the new Local Plan, while ensuring that proposed housing allocations continue to focus on developing sites within the conurbation area, helping to deliver regeneration priorities in Greater Eston and Redcar, and safeguarding the rural character of East Cleveland.



Indicator Number	Indicator	Output	Trend
TCI1	% of applications submitted with travel plans which required them under Policy DP3	100%	Same
TCI2	Number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents	35	Down
TCI3	Bus patronage	4,169,440	Up
TCI4	Number of new community facilities permitted/completed	Permitted: 3 Completed: 5	Down Up
TCI5	Number of community facilities lost	12	Same

This section seeks to reflect on the Council's delivery of the transport policies within the Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan, together with the delivery of new community infrastructure in the borough. The chapter will focus on new developments which have taken place, any within the pipeline and outline any successful bids for funding new projects.

6.1 Transport

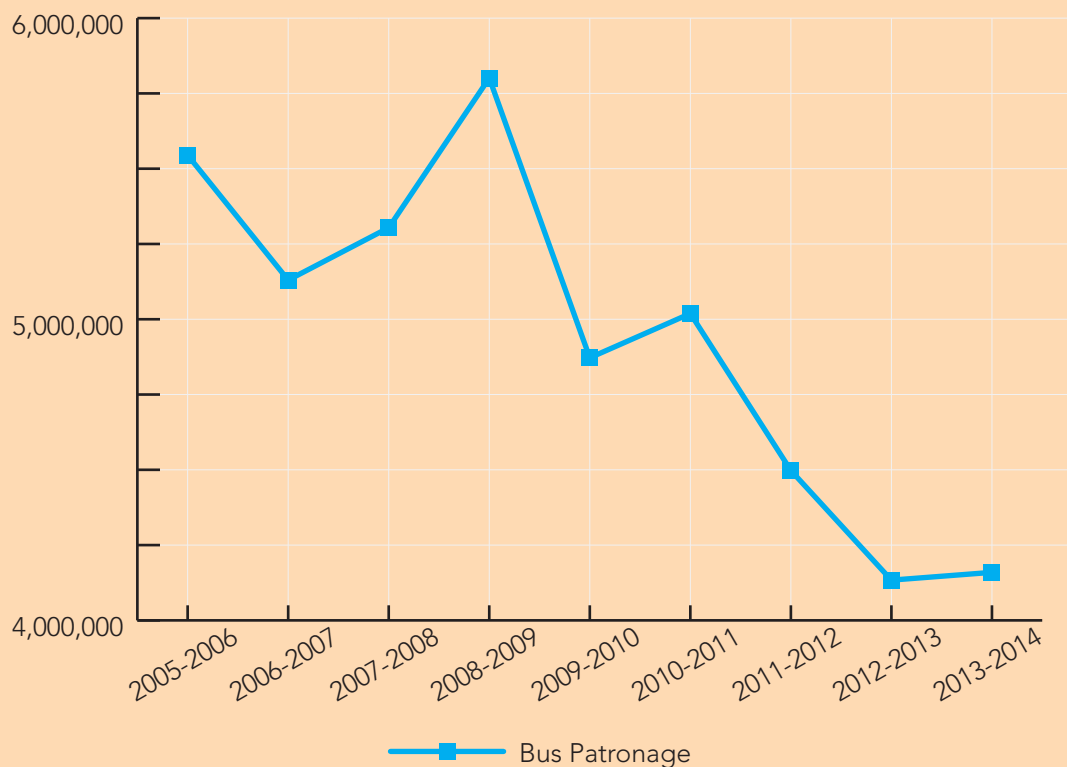
The Council has continued delivery of a package of sustainable transport initiatives following our successful bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, has been engaged in a three year contract to March 2015 to deliver the main sustainable transport promotional programme called 'Get Moving Redcar & Cleveland'. In 2013/14, they delivered 398 promotional activities to 22,400 people in schools, workplaces and communities.

Accessibility improvements have been implemented to assist the use of sustainable modes of transport. Cycle racks have been installed at the Y2k community centre, Kirkleatham Museum and Teesville Primary School. Traffic islands have been installed at the arms of the Milton Street / Marine Parade T-junction in Saltburn to improve the ease of pedestrians crossing and safety at a busy junction. Raised railings have been installed on a footbridge over the A174 Marske Bypass to enable it to be used as a safe cycle route connecting New Marske to Longbeck.

We have constructed Phase 2 of the Tees Dock Road Cycle Route project, creating the route along the A66 to the A66/A1053 Tees Dock Road Roundabout. This is a major stage in the creation of the safe cycle link to the port. Work is continuing in 2014/15 installation of street lighting for the path on the A1053 and cycle signing and lining works to complete the scheme.

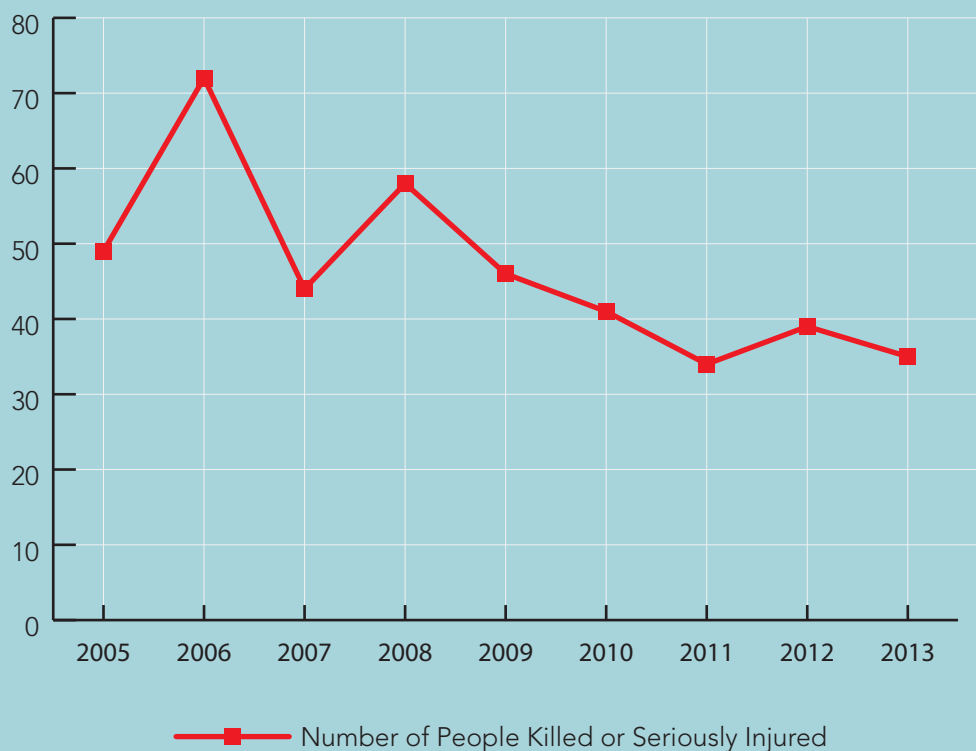
An Independent Travel Training (ITT) programme for people with learning difficulties has been developed in Redcar and Cleveland and a partnership has been established with Middlesbrough Borough Council, special schools and local colleges. During 2013/14 classroom assessments were carried out for 14 people. Of these, 5 successfully completed one-to-one ITT training, 3 were assessed to be unsuitable for individual ITT and 5 declined individual ITT.

Bus patronage



* Please note that figures from 09/10 onwards only include Arriva patronage

Number of people killed or seriously injured by year



Bus patronage has been in decline over many years, although there was a slight increase in bus patronage figures this year. The Tees Valley Bus Network Initiative that is now being implemented is seeking to improve the standards and reliability of bus services in order to make them a more attractive option for potential users and the increase in bus patronage this year may be an early sign that the initiative is starting to have a positive effect. The Council will continue to promote sustainable forms of transport.

There was a decrease in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the Council's roads in 2013 when compared to the previous year. This improvement follows the overall trend in recent years.

6.2 Community Facilities

Within the year there were five community facilities completed, which is an increase on the three completions in the previous year. The completed schemes were various small scale extensions to several schools throughout the borough.

There were also three planning applications for community uses permitted within the year, which is a significant decrease on the figure recorded in the previous year. These permissions were for single storey extensions at Whale Hill and Hummersea Primary Schools and development at Huntcliff School, involving the change of use of the former caretaker's bungalow to office accommodation, provision of a garden store and a canopy for a picnic area.

As noted earlier, the new Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart development was opened in April 2014. This provides new civic facilities including a Council debating chamber and registry office. As the building was completed after the monitoring period, this will be recorded as a completion in next year's monitoring report.

Whilst there has been considerable success in delivering new community development within the year and there are number of schemes in the pipeline, some community buildings have also been lost. Within the year there were a total of twelve community buildings demolished or lost through conversion to alternative uses, which is the same as the figure recorded for the previous year. A significant number of the community buildings lost have been converted to residential use. The losses recorded within the year include numerous local housing offices, churches and several care homes.

Next Steps

- The projects funded through the successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid will continue to be implemented and their success will be monitored through the Local Transport Plan Annual Monitoring Report.
- The Council will continue to encourage a modal shift to sustainable modes of transport through the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, and will continue to seek to obtain external funding to improve public transport provision and highways improvements within the borough.
- The Council will continue to promote and protect community facilities through the Local Plan, particularly in rural parts of the borough.



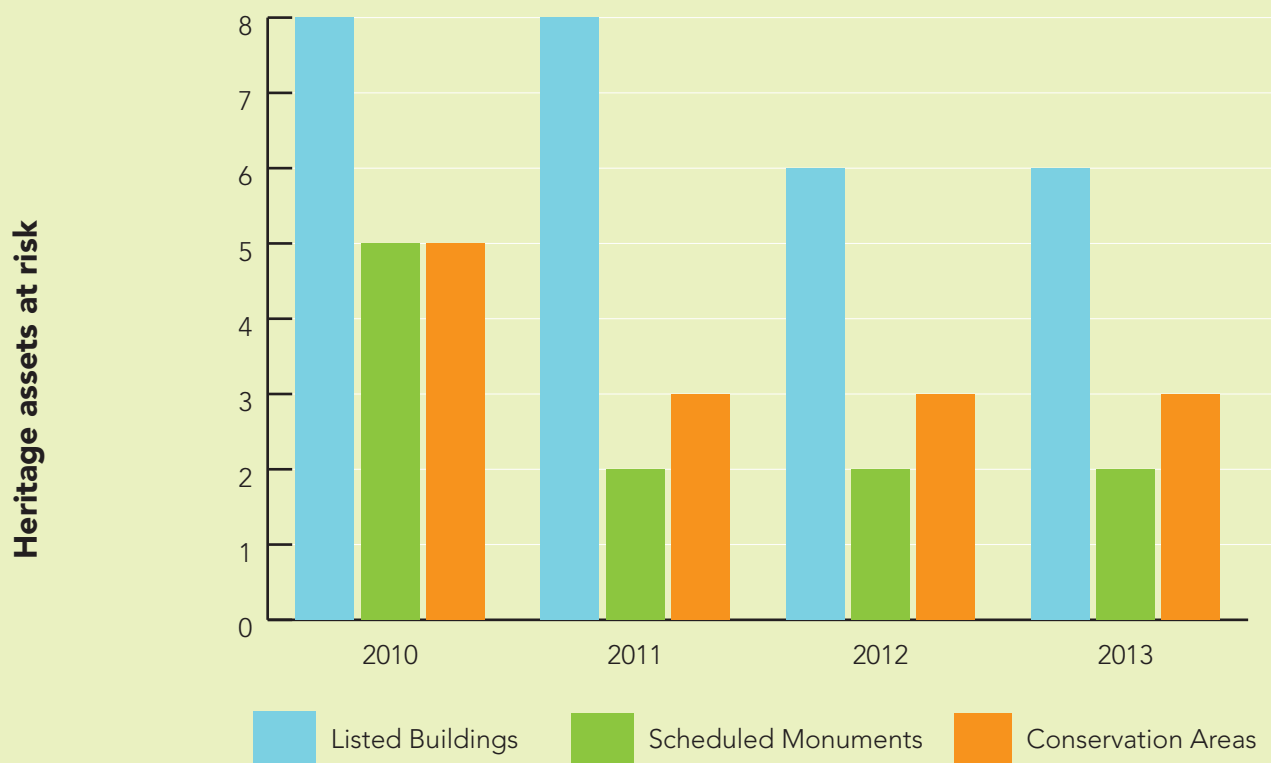
7. Environmental Quality

Indicator Number	Indicator	Output	Trend
EQ1	Number of heritage assets classified 'at risk'	6 Listed Buildings 2 Scheduled Monuments 3 Conservation Areas	Same Same Same
EQ2	Percentage of major applications that have submitted a design and access statement	100% of all relevant applications	Same
EQ3	Percentage of major applications with an artistic contribution condition	25%	Down
EQ4	Number of approved applications outside of development limits	46	Down
EQ5	Total amount of protected open space lost to new development (permission granted)	0.72 ha	Down
EQ6	Percentage of major applications where 10% of predicted energy demand is met through renewables	38%	Down
EQ7	Total amount of waste collected (tonnes)	70,383.52 (Municipal) 55,697.64 (Household)	Up Up
EQ8	Percentage of household waste arising by management type	47.43% Energy recovery 28.36% Recycled 18.32% Composting 2.19% Landfill	Down Up Up Up

In order to protect and enhance the special qualities and unique character of Redcar and Cleveland, we need to ensure that our adopted LDF policies on heritage, design, open space, climate change and minerals and waste are working effectively.

7.1 Heritage Assets

The repair, revitalisation and re-use of listed buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas continues, with particular attention being given to those at risk. Since 2009 the Council, working in partnership with owners and local community-based groups, has made significant improvements to heritage assets listed on the English Heritage at Risk Register. This work has seen the number of scheduled monuments and conservation areas on the register reduce dramatically. In 2013 the number of listing buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas at risk has remained static at six, two and three respectively. Despite fire damage to Kirkleatham Stables, work to help secure the conservation and enhancement of the historic buildings and their landscape settings is still ongoing, through pursuit of a heritage led regeneration strategy. The Turner Mausoleum at the Church of St Cuthbert also received a grant towards a package of urgent repairs.



7.2 Urban Design

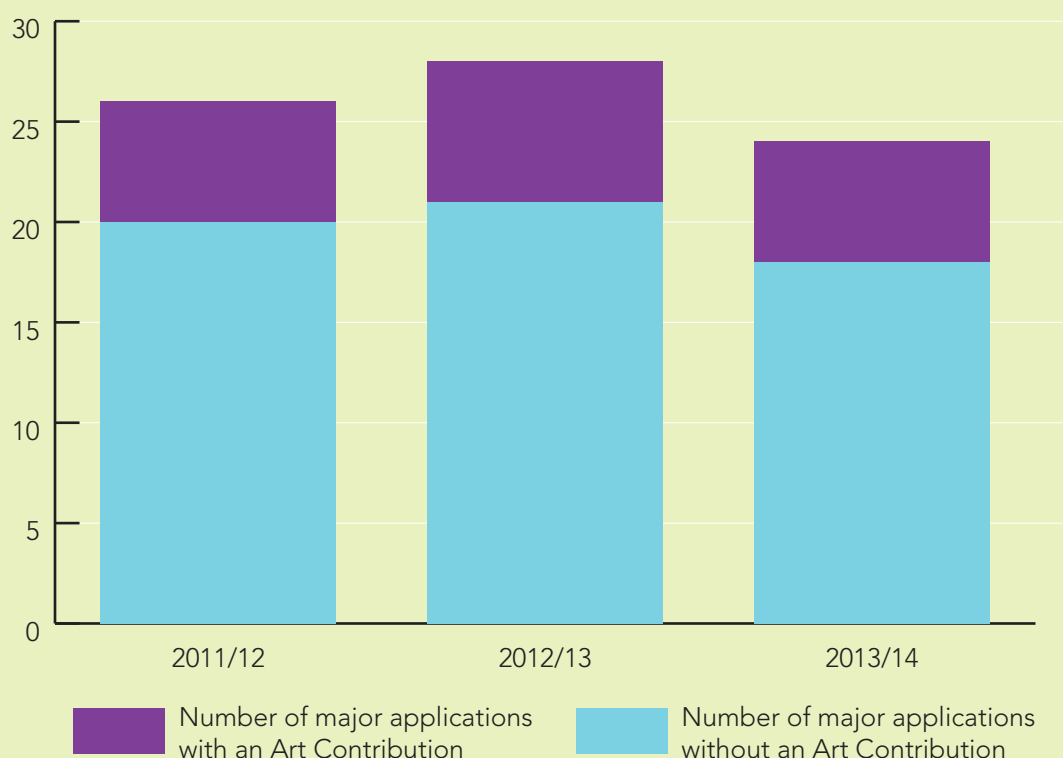
Promoting sustainable development and design quality is a key overarching theme running throughout Council policy. Quality of place is one of the few drivers of economic competitiveness which we can control, shape and influence, and importantly 'sell' to existing and potential investors and residents. As such all new development is expected to promote high standards of built form and urban and landscape design. The Council is continually trying to raise design standards across the borough and aims to achieve high quality design in new developments.

The RICS North East 2014 Renaissance Awards showcase inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment. Three projects within the borough were highly commended, the Palace Hub, Tuned In! and Greater Eston Eco Village.

7.3 Percentage for Art

As part of its policy of securing a high quality built environment, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is promoting a scheme whereby developers devote a percentage of development costs to the installation of a work or works of art.

Artwork adds distinctiveness to development and can raise commercial appeal. When a major application is submitted, developers are asked to devote up to 1% of those costs to a work of art to be displayed within the development and visible to the public. During the 2013/14 monitoring period 24 major applications were approved, 6 of which included a condition relating to the provision of art.



7.4 Development Limits

Permission was approved for 46 planning applications outside of development limits. Exceptional criteria, as defined in Policy DP1, applied to more than 80% of permissions. The increase from previous years in the number of permissions outside of development limits approved without meeting the requirements of DP1 reflects the NPPF, which states that where the Council cannot demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites, housing policies contained within the LDF should be considered to be out of date. At the time of these decisions, the Council was not able to demonstrate a five year supply and, therefore, the Council's housing policies, including DP1 were considered out of date. In accordance with the NPPF, housing applications had to be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development and permission granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

7.5 Open Space

Recreational facilities, including outdoor play space, informal open space and built recreation facilities are important to local communities for their recreational amenity and their impact on the quality of the environment. The 2014 Green Flag Awards once again saw Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park; Guisborough Forest and Walkway; and Saltburn Valley Gardens maintain their high standards to retain the award. In addition to work by Council staff, the sites are supported by friends groups who fundraise and volunteer to maintain and improve facilities. Green Flag is the national standard for parks and green spaces, and is awarded in recognition of the best green spaces in the country. Sites are assessed against eight criteria including cleanliness, sustainability and conservation.

During the last year several environmental improvement projects have taken place throughout the borough. These include but are not limited to:

- At Eston Moor Local Nature Reserve High Level Stewardship continues as per management plan (3 years remaining).

- The Countryside Ranger Team has begun to work with community groups on a regular basis within the Ancient Woods of Loftus, concentrating on access improvement, flood alleviation and conservation.
- At Errington Woods Local Nature Reserve work is continuing as per its management plan, including weekly activities with the Friends Group and other partners, ongoing projects include supporting the Woodland Trust with tree thinning within Soapwell Wood and assisting the RIGs group around the old quarry, including searching for shale fossils. Tree thinning also continues within Errington Wood itself.
- At Foxrush Farm Community Woodland, work continues as per the management plan. A large number of volunteers are working with the Countryside Ranger on all aspects of access, woodland and conservation management
- At Kirkleatham Museum an education Woodland Trail has been developed and is already in use for site visitors and school groups.
- Countryside Rangers are currently developing the new Mining Heritage Trail (trail improvements and interpretation) running from Eston across to Skinningrove supported by the Coastal Communities Fund.
- At Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park a sculpture trail (funded by Impetus) has been developed within the Local Nature Reserve woodland.
- All three Countryside Visitor sites at Guisborough Forest Walkway; Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park; and Kirkleatham Museum have welcomed growing visitor numbers, educational trips and hosted numerous high profile events on the environmental theme. The infrastructure of each site is continuing to develop with the added value of increasing numbers of site volunteers.

Throughout the borough a number of areas were successful in the Northumbria in Bloom competition. Individuals were also recognised for their outstanding contribution, and many of our communities and community groups were also recognised as outstanding. Moorsholm and Eston were also entered in the national Britain in Bloom competition.

Through the Community Enhancement Forum 20,000 daffodil bulbs will be planted again this year. A Borough Tree Forum has been developed consisting of Council officers, strategic partners, community reps and private businesses. They meet on a regular basis with the intention of preserving, protecting and enhancing the borough's tree and woodland stock and working as a group to support the aims and objectives of the Council's new Trees and Woodland Strategy.

In 2013/14, permission was granted for development which would result in the loss of 0.72ha of protected open space once implemented. The majority, 0.62ha, relates to permission granted for 10 dwellings at Gypsy Lane. While this development will result in the loss of green wedge separating Ormesby and Nunthorpe, the site was considered appropriate for small scale housing development as it resulted in the rounding off of the existing settlement and was not considered to affect the integrity on the green wedge or detrimentally impact on the Conservation Area. Other developments which will result in small losses include the provision of toilet facilities at Saltburn Valley Gardens (within Local Site) and agricultural buildings within the green wedge separating Marske and Redcar.

7.6 Biodiversity

There are seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest within, or partially, within Redcar and Cleveland, excluding the National Park. All sites were in a favourable condition, excluding two units, one which makes up part of South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI and one which makes up part of Pinkney and Gerrick Woods. These units were in an unfavourable but recovering condition. A small amount of the North York Moors SAC and SPA lie within Redcar and Cleveland. In the borough there is also the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar Site.

A number of new Local Sites (Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites) have been identified within the borough in 2013/14, reflecting the abundance of sites which are important for biodiversity and geology across the borough.

There are now 101 Local Sites within the borough, including the area which lies within the National Park. Of these sites, 27% were in positive management, a very slight increase from 26% in the previous year. The Council are continuing to work with the Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership to identify potential biodiversity improvements and positively influence planning policy.

7.7 Climate Change

As a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and EU Covenant of Mayors initiative, we recognise that climate change is one of the greatest threats facing our planet and that we must act swiftly to minimise the potential far reaching effects on Redcar and Cleveland's communities, economy and the environment, committing to the achievement of a 20% reduction in the borough's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The Council recognises that it cannot achieve this on its own and commits to working with the Redcar and Cleveland Partnership and wide ranging stakeholders to identify measures to mitigate our impact but also to adapt to the known impacts of climate change.

Policy DP3 (Sustainable Design) requires major developments to incorporate renewable energy production equipment that provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements of the development. During the last year 38% of major applications were approved with a renewable energy condition. This is a decrease from 48% the year before. Reasons why major application schemes have been unable to achieve 10% or more of their energy from renewable energy sources include site impracticalities and viability constraints. However, in such circumstances efficiency measures have been sought to reduce the developments impact on the borough's carbon footprint, and have included measures such as decreasing predicted energy requirements by 10%.

In the 2013/14 period, planning permission was granted for two single wind-turbines. However, the amount of renewable energy systems installed is likely to be a lot higher as most domestic systems do not require planning consent making it difficult for the Council to monitor. Feed-in tariffs (FiT) act as a financial incentive for the investment in small-scale, low carbon electricity generation technologies. Between April 2013 and March 2014, 392 installations were registered in Redcar and Cleveland, a 107% increase on the number of registrations in the previous year. All installations were of photovoltaic panels with a total installed capacity of 1.430MW, an increase from the 0.711MW installed in 2012/13.

7.8 Minerals and Waste

The five Tees Valley Unitary Authorities adopted the joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents in September 2011.

Waste management policies which encourage the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste have continued to have a positive effect in Redcar and Cleveland.

In 2013/14, 70,383.52 tonnes of municipal waste was collected, a 5.9% increase from 2012/13. A total of 55,697.64 tonnes of household waste was collected, a small 1.6% increase from the previous year. The amount of household waste sent to landfill increased slightly from 0.79% to 2.19%, however this remains a very low figure nationally. The amount of waste reused, recycled or composted increased over the period, while the amount of waste sent for energy recovery decreased.

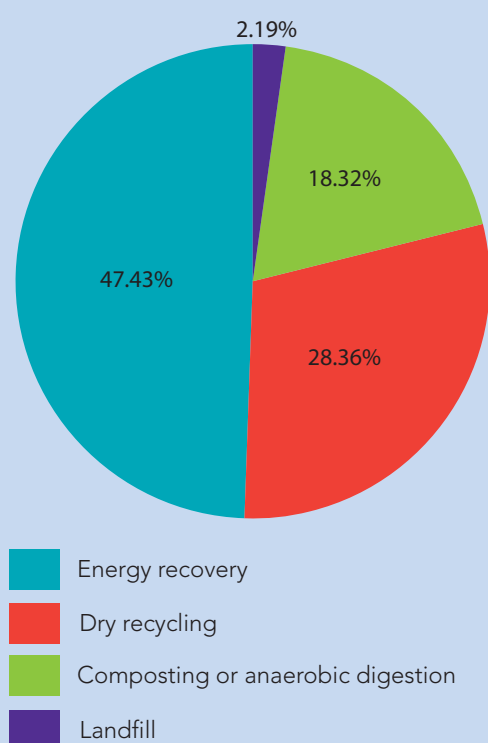
Permission was granted in 2013 for a waste treatment facility at ICI no.3 (Teesport) Landfill Site. The proposed Waste Treatment Facility will treat approximately 350,000 tonnes per year of hazardous and non-hazardous material and will be capable of recovering soil and aggregates for recycling or reuse, primarily on the ICI No.2 or ICI No.3 (Teesport) Landfill Sites.

Planning permission was previously granted for a household waste recycling centre and an autoclave at South Bank which would provide a combined capacity of 400,000 tonnes per annum. However, this permission has now expired.

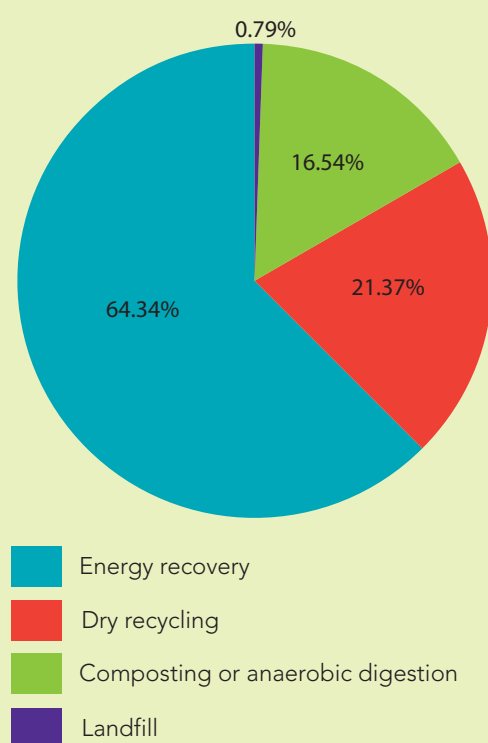
Where relevant all planning applications included a waste audit. No planning permissions were granted within safeguarding areas which would affect long term mineral resources. Rail and port facilities are being used to transport minerals, including from the Boulby Potash Mine to Teesport.

Planning applications have recently been submitted by York Potash for the construction of a potash mine within the North York Moors National Park; a mineral transport system,

Household waste by management type 2013/14



Household waste by management type 2012/13



which will transport potash from the mine; and a materials handling facility at Wilton. A further application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate for harbour facilities which will allow the transport of potash by water from the River Tees.

Sewage waste in the Tees Valley is managed by Northumbrian Water Ltd who operate a number of facilities across the area including the Regional Sludge Treatment Centre at Bran Sands in Redcar & Cleveland. Sewage waste had previously been implicated in the eutrophication (nutrient enrichment) of the Tees Valley. Northumbrian Water Ltd is engaged in a continuous process of upgrading their various facilities to meet water quality targets. In 2013/14, permission was granted for the installation of above ground effluent main pipeline to replace an underground corrosive pipeline between South Bank and Bran Sands Treatment Plant.

Next Steps

- Continue to proactively encourage appropriate development in or adjacent to Heritage Assets by promoting the council's householder guide to conservation areas and Conservation Area Character Appraisals.
- Continue to raise the awareness of good design.
- Work with Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership in preparing the new Local Plan and identifying potential opportunities for improvements to biodiversity and geodiversity.
- Continue to ensure that energy efficiency and good design are promoted.



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