



AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT

2018/19

December 2019

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Section 1 – Monitoring Background

Introduction

Local planning authorities must publish information at least annually that shows progress with local plan preparation, reports any activity relating to the duty to cooperate, any information collected which relates to indicators in the plan, and any policies which are not being implemented. This is done through an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – formerly known as an Annual Monitoring Report.

The content of AMRs is prescribed by the [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 – Part 8 \(regulation 34\)](#).

This Authority Monitoring Report for 2018/19 was published in December 2019. This covers the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 to allow for year-by-year comparison over time. However if any significant changes/events have taken place between April 2019 and December 2019 these have also been referenced in the report.

The start date for monitoring is 1 April 2011 in order to coincide with the start date for the adopted Local Plan.

Policy Context and the Monitoring Process

Within England, the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) sets out the government’s planning policies and how these are to be applied. A revised NPPF was published in February 2019. It provides a framework within which local people and their responsible councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities. The Council collects and analyses data in order to establish how effective policies have been and whether they are being implemented in the intended manner. This process of monitoring planning policies is important to ensure they are achieving their objectives and delivering sustainable development. The monitoring process can also help to identify whether policies are having any unintended consequences and whether they are still relevant and effective. The AMR also plays an important role in the provision of evidence for emerging planning policies at the local level. The [Local Plan](#), adopted in November 2017, includes a chapter on monitoring and implementation and also contains a Monitoring Framework.

District Context

North West Leicestershire is a largely rural district and covers a size of 27,900 hectares (108 square miles). Coalville is the principal administrative centre, with the other main settlements being Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham. The district shares borders with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Charnwood Borough, Rushcliffe Borough, Erewash Borough, South Derbyshire District, Lichfield Borough and North Warwickshire Borough Councils. There are good road links within North West Leicestershire including the M1, the A42/M42, the A50 and the A511, which help to link the district with larger centres including Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Birmingham.

Demographic Context

At the 2011 Census the population of the district was about 94,500. The majority of residents lived within the main settlements of Coalville (37,437) and Ashby de la Zouch (12,530). The residents within these two settlements accounted for more than half of the district’s population (ONS Census, 2011). The percentage of people within the district of working age (16-64) was 62.9% which is slightly lower than the national figure of 64.2% (ONS Census, 2011).

By 2018, the population of the district had increased to an estimated 102,100¹; an increase of 8%. The percentage of people aged 16-64 had decreased slightly to 61.7% , a decrease of 1.2% compared to a national decrease of 1.5%

Document Preparation against the Local Development Scheme

North West Leicestershire District Council's Local Plan was adopted on 21 November 2017. The Local Plan includes a Monitoring Framework which outlines how the policies in the Local Plan will in the future be monitored annually. Through monitoring the council can regularly assess the performance of individual policies and overall progress in delivering the strategic objectives of the Local Plan.

The adopted Local Plan includes a commitment to undertake an immediate review of the plan commencing in early 2018. In accordance with the then published Local Development Scheme (LDS) the review formally started in February 2018. The review is being undertaken in two parts; a Partial review and a Substantive review.

The Partial review seeks to amend the current wording in Policy S1 only. The Substantive review will be a much broader review covering a range of issues and will also cover a longer time period.

Following a Peer Review of the Planning Service in early 2018, it was decided that the Local Plan Advisory Committee should become a formal committee (Local Plan Committee) and have decision making powers, including overseeing the preparation of the Local Plan. The first meeting of the Committee took place in June 2018.

The [most recent LDS](#) was published in November 2019 and it sets out timetables for both the Partial and Substantive Reviews.

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Through producing a Neighbourhood Plan communities can take the lead on developing planning policies. However, any plans and policies must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the adopted Local Plan in place at the time a Neighbourhood Plan is prepared.

Neighbourhood Plans attain the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been agreed at a referendum and is made by North West Leicestershire District Council. Applications for planning permission must then be determined in accordance with the neighbourhood plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The [Ashby de la Zouch Neighbourhood Plan](#) was made on 29 November 2018 and the [Ellistown and Battleflat Neighbourhood Plan](#) was made on 16 July 2019.

There are currently three other designated Neighbourhood Plan areas within the District:

- [Blackfordby](#),
- [Hugglescote and Donington le Heath](#), and
- [Swannington](#).

Blackfordby published a pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan for consultation during May/June 2019 and in November 2019 Hugglescote and Donington le Heath published a pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan for a 6 week consultation period ending on 18 December 2019.

¹ ONS Population estimates – local authority based by five year age bands

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Localism Act introduced the CIL which is a tool for Local Authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of the area. CIL is a one off payment charged on new development (but may also be payable on permitted development) to be used to respond to pre-determined infrastructure needs in the district. Where a planning permission is phased, each phase of the development is treated as if it were a separate chargeable development for levy purposes.

There are not currently any plans to introduce CIL in North West Leicestershire.

Duty to Cooperate

The Duty to Cooperate was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and is a legal duty for local planning authorities, county councils and public bodies 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. The duty to cooperate is not a duty to agree but local planning authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters.

North West Leicestershire forms part of the wider Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership area (LLEP). The District Council has and continues to engage and co-operate in joint working with the other authorities within and also outside the HMA. In terms of the Local Plan the council has worked with partners across the HMA/LLEP on a variety of matters including establishing housing requirements, and employment needs, planning for climate change and the Charnwood Forest.

There are on-going mechanisms for co-operation between the HMA authorities at both officer and Member level through the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the Members Advisory Group (MAG). In addition, the HMA authorities have jointly produced a [Strategic Growth Plan](#), which is an overarching non-statutory plan which sets out the aspirations for delivering growth (housing, economic and infrastructure) in Leicester and Leicestershire until 2050. To reflect the timing of its formal approval by each of the authorities the Strategic Growth Plan is dated December 2018.

Outside of the HMA/LLEP the council has a regular dialogue with neighbouring authorities regarding meeting development needs and works - specifically with South Derbyshire and Lichfield on matters relating to the River Mease Special Area of Conservation.

Section 2 – Monitoring Outputs for 2018/19

The figures and statistics included in this report have been collected by North West Leicestershire District Council unless otherwise stated.

Housing

Completions

Table 1: Housing completions (net) from 2011/12 onwards:

Monitoring Period	Housing Completions Net
2011 / 2012	235
2012 / 2013	365
2013 / 2014	428
2014 / 2015	686
2015 / 2016	628
2016/2017	727 ²
2017/2018	978 ³
2018/2019	710
Total	4,757

Table 1 shows the number of new dwellings completed in each monitoring period, dating from 2011/12 onwards. The table shows the net figure i.e. the number of houses remaining after accounting for any deductions e.g. demolitions or conversions. The table shows that in the first 3 years the annual requirement identified in the adopted Local Plan (481 dwellings) was not met, but has been significantly exceeded in the subsequent years. Since 2011/12 the average annual build rate has been 594 dwellings, significantly in excess of the annual requirement of 481 dwellings.

Location of completions

Table 2: Location of housing completions within the district from 2011 to 2019 (net figures):

	Coalville Urban Area	Key Service Centres	Local Service Centres	Sustainable Villages	Small Villages	Total
2011/12	121	-24	63	70	5	235
2012/13	93	91	153	16	12	365
2013/14	33	198	148	32	17	428
2014/15	97	308	184	31	66	686
2015/16	122	221	166	78	41	628
2016/17	297	122	157	101	50	727
2017/18	315	237	121	235	70	978
2018/19	288	221	31	129	41	710
Total	1,366	1,374	1,023	692	302	4,757

Table 2 shows the location of housing completions recorded from the start of the plan period. The district's Key Service Centres (Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington) have seen the largest amount

² There have been amendments to the completions figures for 2016/17 following a review of our monitoring data.

³ There have been amendments to the completions figures for 2017/18 following a review of our monitoring data

of new housing built since 2011 although there has been a significant increase in the amount of new dwellings built in the Coalville Urban Area (CUA) over the last three years. This reflects the upturn in the housing market in the CUA and also the resolving of issues relating to viability and infrastructure provision which were previously holding back development. Build rates in Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington have been fairly consistent, although there was a slight decrease in 2016/17 as sites were built out and new developments had yet to come on stream. This was reversed in 2017/18 and has continued in 2018/19.

Policy S2 of the adopted Local Plan identifies the CUA as the Principal Town of the district and where the largest amount of development in a single settlement will take place. This is reflected in the completion figures to date. The most amount of new development outside of the Coalville Urban Area has been in Ashby de la Zouch (1,022 dwellings), followed by Ibstock (584 dwellings) and Castle Donington (352 dwellings). Ibstock is classified in the Settlement Hierarchy as a Local Service Centre whereas Castle Donington is identified as a Key Service Centre. The greater than might be expected amount of development that has taken place in Ibstock reflects the fact that in the absence of an up-to-date plan prior to the adoption of the Local Plan, the Council was supporting developments in locations which it would not necessarily otherwise have supported. The adoption of the Local Plan should help to redress this issue. Indeed, the level of completions in Local Service Centres has decreased steadily since 2014/15 as the sites in these centres have been built out whereas the Colaville urban Area has seen a significant increase in build rates as larger, more problematic sites have been brought forward.

In terms of Sustainable Villages, these account for about 14.5% of new development since 2011. This is perhaps higher than might be expected. The most development has taken place in Ravenstone (171 dwellings), followed by Moira (102), Appleby Magna (98) and Ellistown (79). In the case of the first 3 villages again the lack of an up-to-date plan had resulted in developments being permitted which may not otherwise have been. However, in the case of Ellistown the amount of development is due to developments early on the plan period which were a 'hangover' from the previous Local Plan.

Location of Permissions

Table 3: Location of housing permissions 2019

	Coalville Urban Area	Key Service Centres	Local Service Centres	Sustainable Villages	Small Villages	Total
2017	4,734	2,279	1,200	528	224	8,965
2018	4,558	2,115	1,150	639	131	8,593
2019	4,234	1,854	1,094	445	82	7,709

Table 3 shows the location of planning permissions for housing as at 31 March 2019. Again, these figures reflect the Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy. Within the Key Service Centres there were 981 dwellings with permission in Ashby de la Zouch and 873 at Castle Donington. This split between the two reflects what has been observed historically in terms of completions and suggests that it will continue in the future. In terms of the Local Service Centres the number of permissions is the reverse of completions. So whilst the most completions since 2011 have taken place in Ibstock (584 dwellings), the most permissions are in Measham (507 dwellings, followed by Kegworth (484 dwellings) and then Ibstock (103 dwellings). Through time, therefore, it is expected that the total amount of development in the three Local Service Centres will balance out.

Overall the number of permissions has declined slightly (down from 8,965 dwellings in 2017), but bearing in mind the continued high build rate it has not decreased as much as might have been

expected. This indicates that new permissions are coming forward and replacing some of those dwellings that have been built out and so maintaining a healthy pool of permissions for the future.

In percentage terms the biggest decrease in permissions has been in Small Villages (down 63%) followed by Sustainable Villages (down 30%). This reflects the status of such settlements in the settlement hierarchy and suggests that the adoption of the Local Plan in late 2017 is having the desired effect. In contrast permissions in Coalville were down 10%, Key Service Centres 19% and Local Service Centres (9%).

Location of dwellings under construction

As at 31 March 2019 653 dwellings were under construction. Table 4 shows how these were distributed across the district settlement categories.

Table 4: Location of housing under construction 2018 and 2019

	Coalville Urban Area	Key Service Centres	Local Service Centres	Sustainable Villages	Small Villages	Total
2018	192	215	47	142	57	653
2019	176	202	78	178	26	660

The number of dwellings under construction has increased slightly from the 653 dwellings under construction as at 31 March 2018. Both the Local Service Centres and Sustainable Villages have seen increases of 31 dwellings (39%) and 36 dwellings (20%) respectively. The biggest decrease is in the Small Villages category (down 31 dwellings).

In terms of the main settlements the Coalville Urban Area had the most number of dwellings under construction (176) followed by Ashby de la Zouch (173 dwellings). The next highest was 59 in Ibstock, 51 in Blackfordby, 29 in Castle Donington, 28 in Heather, and 20 in Measham. The higher than might be expected number in the Sustainable Villages is accounted for by a number developments of 10 or more dwellings in Appleby Magna, Blackfordby, Heather and Ravenstone which were all approved at a time when the Council could not demonstrate a 5-year land supply and did not have an up-to-date Local Plan in place. However, some of these developments have been built out or are close to completion and so there has been a decrease in those specific settlements which is expected to continue.

Greenfield and Brownfield Land Development

Table 5: Residential development on Greenfield and Previously Developed Land (PDL) from 2011/12 onwards:

	PDL Sites	Greenfield Sites	Total	Percentage on PDL
2011/12	72	163	235	31%
2012/13	77	288	365	21%
2013/14	108	320	428	25%
2014/15	187	499	686	27%
2015/16	181	447	628	29%
2016/17	150	577	727	21%
2017/18	155	823	978	16%
2018/19	81	629	710	11%
Total	1,011	3,746	4,757	21%

Table 5 shows the amount and proportion of new housing on Greenfield Land and Previously Developed Land (PDL). The table shows that the percentage of new houses built on PDL has fluctuated between 11% and 31% over the plan period. The increases on PDL recorded in 2014/15 and 2015/16 have been reversed in the last three years. This probably reflects the increasing importance in recent years attached by government policy to supporting new development and the Council's previous lack of a 5 Year Housing Land Supply, meaning some of the former adopted Local Plan Policies were out of date.

The actual number of new dwellings provided on PDL (save for the first 2 years and 2018/19) has been fairly consistent; in contrast development on Greenfield sites has shown a significant variation.

It also reflects the fact that there is a greater dependency upon small sites (i.e. those of less than 10 dwellings) to deliver development on PDL. The following table identifies the number of dwellings, on small sites since 2011 and the number of these built on PDL or greenfield sites.

Table 6: Net completions on small sites (PDL and Greenfield) since 2011.

Small Site Completions on PDL Sites	Small Site Completions on Greenfield Sites	Total number of dwellings completed on small sites
207	387	594

Table 6 identifies the number of dwellings completed on small sites since 2011. Although such sites by their size will deliver less development than larger sites it does impact upon the overall proportion of new development on PDL as illustrated in Table 7 below, where the percentage of small site completions on PDL (35%) were much higher than those overall (11%) as shown in table 5 above.

Table 7: Completions on small sites (Percentage on PDL and Greenfield) since 2011.

Small Site Completions on PDL Sites	Small Site Completions on Greenfield Sites
35%	65%

Table 7 identifies the amount (in percentage terms) of dwellings completed on small sites since 2011 that have been on greenfield or PDL. Although such sites by their size will deliver less development than larger sites they do contribute to the overall proportion of new development, especially on PDL.

House types and sizes on completed sites

Policy H6 seeks to achieve a mix of house types and sizes. Whilst the policy does not specify the mix required it does refer to the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which identifies the ideal dwelling mix, having regard to a range of factors including how the age structure of residents within the district will change up to 2031.

Table 8 below identifies the HEDNA suggested mix and compares this with the actual mix achieved in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Table 8: house mix: HEDNA and actual

Type of Housing	Dwelling size			
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
Market (HEDNA)	0-10%	30-40%	45-55%	10-20%
Actual 2017/18	1.4%	10.4%	36.2%	51.9%
Actual 2018/19	2.4%	10.7%	36.6%	50.3%
Affordable (HEDNA)	30-35%	35-40%	25-30%	5-10%
Actual 2017/18	17.8%	54%	27%	1.1%
Actual 2018/19	19.4%	65.7%	14.9%	0%

It can be seen that in terms of market housing the actual provision is disproportionate in respect of both 2 and 4 bed properties, with a significant under provision of 2 bed and over provision of 4 bed properties. Whilst the HEDNA mix is not prescriptive and it is necessary to have regard to other factors, the mix achieved in 2017/18 and 2018/19 if repeated in future years would result in a housing mix which may not meet the housing need.

In respect of affordable dwellings, the lower provision of 1-bed affordable properties is not considered to be a concern as it is recognised that 1-bed properties do not provide sufficient flexibility for changing household composition and hence are not sustainable. The high provision of 2-bed affordable properties is a consequence of the above and strategically the council consider that 2-bed properties are more sustainable long term. For example there are a high number of single elderly applicants who could be suitably housed in one-bed bungalows but would have a better standard of accommodation if they had a spare bedroom which would enable a carer or family member to stay overnight and offer support. The number of 3-bed affordable properties completed has declined slightly, this could be a result of the increase in two bed properties. The need for 4 bed & 5 bed houses is quite small and is linked to the locational requirements of those in need. With such a specific need applicants may choose to pursue privately rented, they may move into older housing association or Council properties. Some larger properties have been agreed on sites that are currently being developed therefore this figure may increase next year.

Self-Build

Self-build and custom housebuilding is a key element of the government's agenda to increase the supply of housing, both market and affordable housing. As such, legislation has been introduced in recent years that places duties on Local Planning Authorities (LPA) that are concerned with increasing the availability of land for self-building and custom housebuilding.

The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 (as amended by the housing and Planning Act 2016) provides a definition of a self-build and custom housebuilding. It means the building or completion by individuals, an association of individuals or persons working with or for individuals, of houses to be occupied as homes by those individuals.

The Act requires local councils in England to keep and have regard to a register of individuals and associations of individuals who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the authorities area for their own self-builds and custom housebuilding. A 'serviced plot of land' is defined as a plot of land that has access to the public highway and connections to utilities (electricity, water and waste water), or that these circumstances can be provided within a specified period of time.

The Act places a further duty upon LPAs to grant suitable development permission to enough suitable plots of land to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in their area. The level of

demand is established by the number of entries added to the authority’s register during a base period which runs from 31 October to 30 October each year. The local authority then has 3 years from the end of each base period in which to permit an equivalent number of plots.

North West Leicestershire District Council seeks to support those who wish to self-build and custom build and established a Self-build and Custom Build Register in April 2016. The Council holds a webpage https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/self_build dedicated to self-build and custom housebuilding setting out the purpose of the register and how to apply for entry onto the register.

The North West Leicestershire Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register

This Register was established in April 2016 and has been available for people to submit their application using the information and form provided on the council website. As of 30 October 2019 there are 39 individuals on the list. Using the prescribed base periods, for our district this demand equates to:-

- By October 2019 we are required to permit 6 plots;
- By October 2020 we are required to permit an additional 10 plots;
- By October 2021 we are currently required to permit an additional 9 plots;
- By October 2022 we are currently required to permit an additional 14.

The above equals a cumulative total requirement of 39 plot permissions.

All entrants on the register are individuals who are interested in building their own properties. The Council does not require there to be a ‘local connection test’ for entry on its register.

Of the total number of individuals on the list, the following statistics can be provided;

- 21% own a plot for such a build, 10% have a plot but do not own it and the remaining 69% need to find a plot.
- 80% would be seeking to build a detached property and 20% seeking to build a bungalow.
- In terms of the number of bedrooms required, 9% are seeking a 2 bedroom property, 33% are seeking a 3 bedroom property, 31% are seeking a 4 bedroom property and 27% are seeking a 4+ bedroom property.

Planning Permissions Granted

The level of demand is established by the number of entries added to the authority’s register during a base period. As each base period runs from 31 October to 30 October each year, data collected for the purposes of self-building monitoring runs beyond the 30 March 2019 end date for the purposes of this AMR. This data however is included within this report and although not required for the purposes of the AMR, the inclusion of all self-build data ensures consistency with the required base dates for the purposes of Self Build.

From April 2016 to October 2019, 34 dwellings for serviced plots suitable for self and custom build have been granted planning permission. Details of which are provided in the table below.

Table 9: Number of Self Build Plots with Planning Permission from April 2016 to October 2019

Site	No. of plots	Decision Date
Park Farm, Overton Road, Ibstock	1	07/10/2016
Land adjacent 16 Measham Road, Ashby	1	10/04/2017
Land at Top Road, Griffydam	2	26/02/2018

Land off Hepworth Road, Woodville	30	26/06/2019
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Given the number of permissions to date and based on the number of entrants on the register as of 30 October 2019, permission has been granted for enough suitable plots of land to fully meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in the area, for the period up to October 2021. Furthermore the number of permissions would also meet in part the demand that is identified for the period up to October 2022.

Employment

North West Leicestershire District Council monitors the provision of employment land within the district to ensure that there is an adequate supply of land available to support the needs of businesses and residents. Employment land is land that is appropriate for the development of employment generating uses, usually within the B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage or Distribution) land use categories.

A Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HEDNA) was published for the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (LLHMA) in January 2017. The principal purpose of the HEDNA is to identify the housing and employment land requirements for the LLHMA for the periods 2011-31 and 2011-36.

The employment land requirements for the district, as detailed in the HEDNA, are set out in the table below. Only those figures to 2031 are included as this is the period covered by the adopted Local Plan.

Small B8 is defined as floor space of less than 9,000sq metres and Strategic B8 is floor space of more than 9,000sq metres. In terms of the requirements for Strategic B8 a Strategic Distribution Study was undertaken for LLHMA which identifies a need for a minimum of 361 Ha up to 2031 for the LLHMA as a whole - there is no distribution below LLHMA level. The HEDNA repeated these findings.

Table 10: HEDNA Employment Land Requirements (2011-2031) against NWLDC Employment Completions and Commitments (April 2011-March 2019)

	B1a/b	B1c/B2	Small B8	Strategic B8	TOTAL
Requirements 2011-2031 (not including strategic B8)	44.7	3.3	16.8		64.8
Completions April 2011 – March 2019	7.9	2.6	8.8		19.3
Under construction at 31st March 2019	1.0	0.3	0.0		1.3
Allocated in Local Plan (Money Hill)	5.3	5.3	5.3		15.9
With permission at 31st March 2019	4.9	3.4	11.1		19.4
Residual requirement up to 2031	25.6	-8.3	-8.4		8.9
Allowance for potential loss of employment land					10.0
Residual requirement up to 2031					18.9
Strategic min B8 requirement 2011 – 2031 (HMA wide)				361.0	
NWL strategic B8 Completions April 2011 – Mar 2019				68.9	
NWL strategic B8 Under construction at 31st Mar 19				174.7	
NWL strategic B8 With permission at 31st Mar 19				72.8	
Residual requirement (HMA wide) 2011-2031				44.6	

Although this Authority Monitoring Report covers the period April 2018-March 2019, it should be noted that since April 2019, the Council has granted permission for a further 5ha site for B2/small scale B8 uses at Bardon Road and has resolved to approve (subject to s106 agreement) another site of 11ha for B2/small scale B8 at Regs Way.

The Strategic B8 under construction figure includes 139ha of land at East Midlands Gateway, which has now started the first phases of construction. Again, the period covered by this AMR is from April 2018 to March 2019 – but it is also worth noting that a very large site (97ha) has since been granted permission at J11 of the A/M42 for strategic B8 use.

Retail & Service Centres

The Retail and Leisure Capacity Study and Appendices (February 2019), undertaken by Lichfields, provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the need for new retail, leisure and other main town centre uses within North West Leicestershire District. The study will be used to inform future planning policy on retail and town centre matters, including future retail needs, as part of the Local Plan Review. The recommendations set out in the report are as follows:

- The capacity assessment identifies a ‘requirement’ of 8,069 sqm additional comparison goods sales area floor space by 2036, seeking to maintain the District’ shopping role and market share within the sub-region;
- A requirement of 1,847 sqm additional convenience good sale area floor space by 2036, is also identified. In qualitative terms there are no identified areas of deficiency;
- With respect to food and beverage development, there is an opportunity to enhance food and beverage provision within all centres. The capacity assessment identifies a ‘requirement’ of 2058 sqm by 2036.
- In terms of other main town centre uses there is theoretical capacity for a small/medium cinema and a health and fitness capacity.

Vacancy Rates

Table 10 below shows the vacancy rates within the main settlements within the district. It should be noted that the 2019 data for Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch is from October 2019 and for the other three centres from July 2019.

Table 11: Vacancy rates within centres

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Coalville	12.6%	14.7%	15.7%	14.7%	10.1%	12.9%	17.2%	17.7%
Ashby de la Zouch	2.8%	4.7%	3.7%	3.1%	0.5%	1.6%	1%	3.9%
Castle Donington	7.1%	3.6%	2.7%	0%		3.6%	7.1%	7.1%
Ibstock	5.4%	0.0%	1.8%		0%	2.7%	10.8%	13.1%
Measham	2.9%	5.9%	5.9%	8.8%		2.9%	2.9%	2.8%

Source: Business Focus Team, North West Leicestershire District Council

Coalville continues to have the highest number of vacant units in the district, with an increase in vacancy rates continuing, albeit at a much reduced rate. Despite having the lowest percentage of vacancy rates of any centre in the district, Ashby de la Zouch has seen an increase in its vacancy rates during the past 12 months. This reverses a decrease in rates that has taken place over the last three years.

In Castle Donington there has been no change in vacancy rates although when compared to the majority of the district's centres, the vacancy rate is comparatively high. Ibstock saw a significant increase in vacancy rates in 2017/18, and this trend has continued in the last 12 months.

Vacancies in Measham have dropped slightly in the past 12 months and overall there has been a significant drop in the percentage of vacancies since 2015.

The figures above for centres in the district can be compared to a national vacancy rate of 11.7% for 'High Streets' in September 2019 (Source: Local Data Company).

Developer Contributions

Legal Agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act secure developer contributions to mitigate the impacts of the development on the local area. The District Council holds funds generated from legal agreements on behalf of the Council and third parties, such as the Health bodies or the National Forest Company. The Council then holds those funds in an interest bearing account until they are spent by the body responsible for implementing the requirements in the legal agreement which secured them.

The Table below (table 11) summarises the contributions received for the last six financial years to the end of 2018/19. Each row relates to the contributions received in that year and shows the closing balance of that years contributions. For example, the figure of £4,168,143.31 is only the balance for 2018/19 and not the total funds held. Please note that the addition of interest means the expenditure and balance will not equal the contribution column.

Table 12: Section 106 contributions received by year from 2013/14 to 2018/19

Year	Contribution	Expenditure	Balance
2013/14	£288,852.49	£141,949.93	£153,547.01
2014/15	£1,889,543.98	£837,329.19	£1,085,429.16
2015/16	£592,634.37	£123,623.77	£478,530.44
2016/17	£2,426,233.39	£2,331,865.62	£96,239.23
2017/18	£3,963,328.32	£2,626,965.83	£1,403,494.67
2018/19	£4,155,208.38	£0.00	£4,168,143.31

Contributions secured as part of S106 Agreements must be proportionate to the scale of the development concerned and its impact upon local communities. This means that large-scale projects, for example, extensions to health facilities or a school or large-scale road improvements, can often only be undertaken by contributions from a number of developments. The Council holds several contributions which are being accrued to pay for such large projects, this is known as 'pooling'. The Council works with service providers to ensure that these projects are implemented in accordance with the S106 agreements.

In the last two years there has been an increase in the sums collected. This is due to the number of developments that have hit triggers for paying contributions. For example, there was £2,376,627.49 collected for the Coalville bypass and A511 improvements to be spent by the County Council. In addition, there was £805,051.12 collected specifically for affordable housing.

It is important to note that these figures are not static as contributions can be spent at any time during the year, once a scheme has been worked up. For example, at the time of reporting the Hood Park Improvement project has committed £565,181.48 of eligible funds, and the Clinical Commissioning Group is working with several health practices to spend their contributions.