



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Warrington Borough Council Local Plan

Annual Monitoring Report 2022

(Monitoring period: 1st April 2021– 31st March 2022)

Published December 2022

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1. Key Messages

This is the 18th Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to be produced by Warrington Borough Council in its capacity as Local Planning Authority. The report covers the period from the 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Overall the 2021/22 monitoring report confirms that the Borough's Development Plan policies continue to be effectively implemented to secure their intended positive outcomes for Warrington's communities, economy and environment. It should be noted that for approximately six months of this monitoring period, the UK was subject to various COVID restrictions, as set out in the UK Government's COVID Recovery Road Map.

Headline findings from this AMR include:

- 694 net new homes were completed within Warrington, which shows an increase of 121 units than that reported in the previous monitoring period (573).
- A total of 110 affordable housing gains were recorded across the period, which is an increase of 38 on the number completed in the previous year (72 units).
- The percentage of dwellings completed on previously developed land has fallen to 66%, below the 80% target in this monitoring period. This is due to development on none Green Belt, green field sites at Pewterspear, Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Cross.
- The completion of 92,601 sqm of new employment floor space across 6 sites totalling 20.08 ha of land.
- This monitoring period saw nine new Section 106 Agreements and three Unilateral Undertakings signed totalling £4,721,373. This monitoring period also saw the receipt of £5,067,966.62 which is significantly more than that reported in the last AMR (£2,715,373.72).
- In general terms, monitoring has seen a reduction in the total amount of municipal waste arisings over the last twelve years. However, the 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 monitoring periods have seen increases of 2,260, 6,643 and 3,817 tonnes respectively in the total municipal waste arisings when compared with 2018/19. This is a slight reversal of a general downward trend in the total municipal waste arisings seen in recent years which can be primarily attributed to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The Council determined 1,138 planning applications, a slight increase on the figure reported in the previous monitoring period (1,116 applications). Of these, 1009 (89%) were approved and 129 (11%) were refused.

2. Introduction

This annual monitoring report for Warrington Borough Council, in its capacity as Local Planning Authority, covers the period 1st April 2021 to the 31st March 2022. It is the 18th Annual Monitoring Report to be prepared by the Council under the provisions of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 - Part 6 Planning, section 113 local development: monitoring reports) and Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) specifically requires monitoring reports to detail:

- the implementation of the local development scheme; and
- the extent to which the policies set out in the local development documents are being achieved.

In addition Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 details that monitoring reports must also contain:

- Details of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans;
- Information pursuant to Regulation 62(4) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations where the authority has introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule; and
- Action in relation to co-operation with a body or person prescribed under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

At the outset it should be noted that the Local Development Scheme to which this AMR will report progress against is that adopted in September 2021.

The development plan policies in operation across the monitoring period were those adopted policies from the Local Plan Core Strategy (LPCS) 2014. However, a legal challenge to the adopted LPCS removed the housing target from the Plan and a review of the Local Plan is now underway. This is addressed in the Local Plan Progress section later in the document.

Monitoring remains integral to the survey – monitor – review cycle that has underpinned plan preparation for many years, and complements the plan – monitor – manage process embraced in current planning practise as well as the wider ‘performance management’ culture adopted by the Council. Following the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the ensuing ‘spatial planning’ approach has broadened the range of key issues away from traditional land use and development ones to instead cover a wider range of social, economic and environmental considerations, an approach which this report seeks to embrace. Accordingly this report presents information likely to be of interest to stakeholders and partners beyond the traditional ‘planning’ customer base.

The 2022 AMR is structured to present information around the following themes:

- Contextual Information and Indicators for Warrington
- Local Plan Progress
- Performance against Core & Local Indicators
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan Update
- Summary & Conclusions

3. Contextual Information and Indicators

Settlement & Population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2021 population estimate for Warrington is 210,900. The density of population is high with 11.7 residents per hectare; this an increase from the 2011 census figure of 11.2 residents per hectare. Compared to our neighbouring authorities, Warrington's ethnicity is low with just 4.1% of its total population being non-white British (Census 2011).

Social Characteristics

The most recent publication of Indices of Multiple Deprivation was in 2019. These updated the statistics from 2015. Overall, deprivation within Warrington decreased slightly relative to the 2015 indices. With an average score of 18.9 compared with 19.3 in 2015, Warrington ranks 148th out of 317 local authorities on the rank of "Average SOA score" measure compared with 147th out of 326 in 2015. This places Warrington within the 46.7th centile, meaning 53.3% of local authorities within England are less deprived than Warrington. There is significant variation between wards with some wards being amongst the least deprived (Lymm) and some in the most deprived (Poplars & Hulme) in the country. These figures remain the same in this monitoring period.

Employment levels within Warrington have decreased. Between April 2021 and March 2022, Warrington had 108,800 (81.3%) people "economically active" compared to 109,200 (82.5%) in the previous monitoring period. This however still compares favourably with the North West (76.6%) and Great Britain (78.6%).

The most comprehensive picture of health in the Borough is presented by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which draws together information about health and wellbeing in Warrington. Headline findings in relation to health outcomes show that the average life expectancy of Warrington residents is improving, but the pace of improvement has slowed in recent years, and the relative gap between Warrington and England has not narrowed. Warrington has stark variations in affluence within the town. Areas which experience higher levels of socio-economic deprivation experience have correspondingly high levels of ill health. The variation in terms of life expectancy related to deprivation is over 10 years for men and almost 7 years for women.

More information on the JSNA can be found at [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/jсна)

In terms of National Vocational Qualifications at level 4 and above, Warrington has gained a higher percentage (41.6%) than the North West average (38.6%), but lower than the Great Britain (43.6%) average, and has generally outperformed the regional and national averages across the remaining levels. Warrington has a lower percentage of the working age population with no qualifications in comparison to the North West and the Great Britain averages. These figures have reduced slightly from the last AMR.

Economic Characteristics

In this monitoring period, the most recent 2021 ONS data records that Warrington has a total of 143,000 employee jobs, with the majority of these being in the Professional,

Scientific and Technical Activities sector. This is a slight increase on the previous monitoring period with 140,000 jobs recorded in 2020. Warrington is home to the largest cluster of nuclear research and technology firms in the UK and also has major employment clusters in Logistics, Precision Engineering, Telecoms and Software.

Average earnings in Warrington is £630.10 gross weekly pay. Warrington's average gross wage is 8.6% higher than the North West average (£578.00) and 2.7% higher than the GB average (£613.10). Average house prices have increased by 10.3% in the last monitoring year in Warrington from £216,810 to £241,659. The latest housing tenure and household spaces statistics remain those from the 2011 Census with 71.6% of all dwellings as owner occupied and 96.8% of household spaces in Warrington being occupied.

Environmental Characteristics

Warrington currently has 379 statutory Listed Buildings, 623 locally listed buildings, 16 Conservation Areas, 12 scheduled monuments and 1 Historic Battlefield. Nature designations currently include 43 local wildlife sites, some of which comprising of more than one parcel of land, resulting in a total of 55 recorded sites, 4 local nature reserves, 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 3 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Following the most recent Landscape Character Assessment for Warrington, the Borough has 20 landscape character areas across the Borough. Current mineral operations in Warrington include Southworth Quarry and Rixton Combined Site.

Transport Characteristics

Warrington is at the centre of a highly connected network of motorways (M6/M62/M56), international airports (Manchester and Liverpool John Lennon), mainline rail (West Coast Mainline and Trans Pennine) and waterway linkages (Manchester Ship Canal). It is also an intersection for some of the busier A routes in the region (A57/A49/A56/A50). Car ownership in Warrington is higher than regional and national levels with higher percentages of households (38.9% compared to 29.5% regionally and 32.1% nationally) owning two or more vehicles and lower percentages owning no car at all. The latest travel to work data for Warrington shows 59.2% of employees come from within Warrington. The top three inflow areas into Warrington come from St Helens (13.8% of commuters), Wigan (13.3%) and Halton (11.8%). The three most popular areas for commuting out of the borough are Halton (13.4%), Manchester (12.1%) and Trafford (9.2%).

Further information and statistics regarding Warrington can be found below:

- NOMISWeb (Office of National Statistics)
 - ONS Annual Population Survey
 - ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
 - ONS Local Labour Force Survey
 - ONS Recorded Crime Tables
- Census 2011
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Land Registry
- Warrington JSNA
- Historic England
- Warrington Borough Council Website

During this monitoring period the 2021 Census data was not available. However, it is anticipated that in the next AMR period, the 2021 Census data will be available and therefore will be reported in the next AMR.

4. Local Plan Progress

Adopted Local Plan

The Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 21 July 2014 and is the current Statutory Development Plan for the Borough, setting out the overarching strategic policies for guiding the location and level of development in the Borough up to 2027.

Upon adoption, there was a High Court Challenge which resulted in parts of the Plan being quashed:

- The housing target of 10,500 new homes (equating to 500 per year) between 2006 and 2027 and;
- References to 1,100 new homes at the Omega Strategic Proposal

Not all of the Local Plan Core Strategy has been overturned and all other policies within the Plan remain unaltered and are considered to be a sound and robust basis for the determination of planning applications across the Borough at this point in time.

Local Plan Review

The Council is currently in the process of preparing a new Local Plan. The timetable for adoption of the new Local Plan is set out in the Council's most recent Local Development Scheme (LDS) which came into effect from 21st September 2021 (see below).

Local Plan Review

Overview	
Role and Subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a new Local Plan in order that it can facilitate the level of new homes and jobs required to meet Warrington's development needs over the period to 2038
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough wide
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plan Document
Conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework

Timetable	Mar 2015 - Sep 2016
Pre-production	Oct 2016 – Dec 2016
Regulation 18 consultation part 1 – Scope of Review and Call for Sites	Oct 2016 – Dec 2016
Regulation 18 consultation part 2 – Preferred Development Option	Jun 2017 – Sep 2017
Publication of Previous Proposed Submission Version	Apr 2019
Regulation 19 consultation (round 1)	Apr 2019 – Jun 2019
Publication of Updated Proposed Submission Version	Oct 2021
Regulation 19 consultation (round 2)	Oct 2021 – Nov 2021
Submission to SoS	Mar 2022
EIP	Jul 2022 – Sep 2022
Consultation on Main Modifications	Jan 2023 – Feb 2023
Publication of Inspectors Report	May 2023
Estimated Date of Adoption	July 2023

Figure 4.1 Timetable set out in the 2021 Local Development Scheme

The Council submitted what it considered to be a 'Sound' Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2021) on 22nd April 2022 to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for independent examination; meaning that the Council was only slightly behind the timetable outlined in the LDS (2021).

Following submission on May 06th 2022, Inspectors Kevin Ward BA (Hons) MRTPI and Andrea Mageean BA (Hons) BPI PhD MRTPI were appointed to hold an independent examination in to the submitted Local Plan. The examination of the Local Plan commenced on 05th September 2022 and concluded on 06th October 2022; meaning again that the examination was only marginally behind the 2021 LDS timetable.

The final decision on the 'soundness' of the Local Plan and the development it proposes will be made by the independent Planning Inspectors, following the conclusion of the examination process. It will then require approval by Full Council, where if approved, will then be the new development Plan for the Borough used in the determination of planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

Appleton Thorn

On 19th June 2017 Warrington Borough Council adopted the Appleton Thorn Ward Neighbourhood Development Plan under 38A (4) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Appleton Thorn Ward Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Warrington Borough Council.

Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Area

The Council designated a Neighbourhood Area on 6th March 2017.

Lymm

The Council designated a Neighbourhood Area on 6th December 2017.

Stretton

The Council designated a Neighbourhood Area on 6th December 2017.

Details and updates to the progress of the Neighbourhood Plans can be found below:

[Neighbourhood plans | warrington.gov.uk](https://warrington.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council will consider whether to introduce CIL as it progresses the review of the Local Plan.

As this has resulted in a delay to the introduction of CIL from the timetable originally envisaged, the Council adopted a Planning Obligations SPD in January 2017 to set out how

the Council will negotiate S106 planning obligations in the interim period. The SPD can be found on the council website:

[Supplementary planning documents | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/Supplementary-planning-documents)

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The most recent Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) produced by Warrington Borough Council was adopted in December 2020 and can be viewed from the link below:

[Statement of community involvement | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/Statement-of-community-involvement)

The updates to the SCI were necessitated as a result of:

- Changes in planning legislation, including a new requirement to review SCIs every 5 years;
- feedback from consultation undertaken on the Local Plan in 2017 and 2019;
- the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR);
- increasing use of new technology and social media within the community;
- the importance of ensuring that consultation is cost effective; and the recognised need for a more flexible approach to ensure that the Council can still proceed with its planning duties whilst responding to national or local circumstances e.g. COVID-19.

Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Council prepared a Town Centre SPD to manage the increasing number of development proposals coming forward in the Town Centre and to provide clear design expectations for developers. The aims of the Town Centre SPD are as follows:

- Bringing together the Council's vision and aspirations for sustainable development of the town centre to benefit all residents, businesses and visitors to the town.
- Establishing clear design principles to guide new development in the town centre and across crucial development sites.
- Requiring developers to give more detailed consideration to how their proposals will contribute to the wider town centre at the start of their design process.

The SPD was formally adopted by the Council on 21 June 2021 and is now a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

House Extensions SPD

The Council prepared a House Extensions SPD to update and replace the Supplementary Planning Guidance – House Extensions (2003). The aims of the SPD are as follows:

- To provide clear advice to enable applicants and their agents to submit proposals with more confidence.
- To give a firmer basis for making decisions to ensure a good quality, sustainable development.

The SPD was formally adopted by the Council on 21 June 2021 and is now a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

5. Local Indicators

This section of the AMR examines indicators of how the Council has performed in the latest monitoring period (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022). Previous AMRs had reported against an indicator set carried over from former Communities and Local Government (CLG) Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators (July 2008). There is no longer a statutory requirement to report against these indicators and whilst this was also the case in previous years, the decision was taken in 2015 to set new local indicators that gave a better suite of information to be compared on an annual basis.

The full set of indicators are:

- **HOU1: Net Additional Dwellings Completed (2020/21)**
- **HOU2: Net Additional Dwellings (Projection from SHLAA)**
- **HOU3: New Dwellings Completed on PDL (2020/21)**
- **HOU4: Pitch provision for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (2020/21)**
- **HOU5: Affordable Housing Completions (2020/21)**
- **ED1: Total Amount of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm) – by type**
- **ED2: Total Amount of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm) on Previously Developed Land (PDL) – by type**
- **ED3: Total Amount of Employment Floorspace Under Construction (sqm) – by type**
- **ED4: Employment Land Available (Hectares) – by type**
- **ED5: Employment Land lost to other uses (Hectares)**
- **RET1: New Retail Development in the Town Centre (sqm)**
- **RET2: New Retail Development permitted outside defined centres (as listed in LPCS Policy SN4) (sqm)**
- **RET3: Vacant Floorspace in the Town Centre (Units & Sqm Floorspace)**
- **HFT1: A5 Planning Applications Approved with reference to the Hot Food Takeaway SPD**
- **OS1: Total Amount of Open Space (Hectares)**
- **OS2: Total Amount of Equipped Play Open Space (Sites & Hectares)**
- **OS3: Total Amount of Informal Play Open Space (Sites & Hectares)**
- **OS4: Total Amount of Parks & Gardens Open Space (Sites & Hectares)**
- **EQ1: Planning Permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice**
- **EQ2: Changes in Areas of Biodiversity Importance**
- **EQ3: Renewable Energy Generation**
- **EQ4: Changes to Heritage Assets (Statutory Listed Buildings)**
- **EQ5: Changes to Heritage Assets (Conservation Areas)**
- **MIN1: Production of Primary Land Won Aggregates**
- **MIN2: Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste**
- **WST1: Capacity of new waste management facilities by WPA**
- **WST2: Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management type by WPA**

Housing Land Development and Availability (April 2022)

This report contains the findings from Warrington’s housing monitoring for 2022, which forms the basis of the annual Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2022. The report includes the potential capacity of sites across the borough to accommodate new homes over the next 15 years, in addition to the Borough’s 5 year housing land supply.

The final report will be available at the address below:

[Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment \(SHLAA\) | warrington.gov.uk](https://warrington.gov.uk)

The figures contained in the report have a base date of 31st March 2022 and take account of any changes since 1st April 2021 including planning permissions; homes under construction and completions; and a review of the status and previous conclusions for sites already within the SHLAA process. They also include any suitable new sites which have been proposed since 1st April 2021 arising from landholder/developer interest or as a result of site information from within the Council and the removal of sites that have been completed and are no longer considered to have potential for housing, including sites secured for non-residential uses.

Identified Deliverable Supply of Housing Land

Through identifying those sites likely to deliver dwelling completions within the next five years (2022-2027), the Borough’s ‘deliverable’ supply of housing land, as at 1st April 2022, has been calculated and is summarised in Table 5.1 below (reproduced from the SHLAA).

Table 5.1 – 5 Year “Deliverable” Housing Land Supply

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Forecast Completions						Total	Total as %
			22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27			
PDL	42	83.35	607	738	373	282	208	2208	72.9	
GF	9	46.98	170	195	154	113	53	685	22.6	
PDL/GF	6	10.76	85	0	48	4	0	137	4.5	
Total	57	141.09	862	933	575	399	261	3030	100%	

Small Sites Allowance

Previous iterations of the SHLAA did not utilise a physical size or capacity threshold for the identification of sites, as is now required by Planning Practice. A revised approach has been applied within recent SHLAA’s since 2017 to bring them up to date with current practice. To this end, a physical site size threshold of 0.25ha has been adopted and only sites above this threshold have been assessed. For sites below this size, an allowance is made for the delivery of small sites within the housing land supply, based on historic completion information.

Warrington has a strong record of delivering a substantial number of dwellings on small sites. This delivery has taken place under varying economic conditions and hence, does not

follow any particular trend. Therefore, it is considered reasonable to assume that small sites will continue to be delivered in the borough throughout the plan period and an average figure for the last ten years (97 per annum) has been used.

Deliverable Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites Allowance)

The deliverable housing land supply (within the next five years) based on identified supply and small sites allowance is set out in Table 5.2 below (reproduced from the SHLAA).

Table 5.2 – 5 Year “Deliverable” Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites Allowance)

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Forecast Completions						
			22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total	Total as %
PDL	42	83.35	607	738	373	282	208	2208	62.8
GF	9	46.98	170	195	154	113	53	685	19.5
PDL/GF	6	10.76	85	0	48	4	0	137	3.9
Small Sites	n/a	n/a	97	97	97	97	97	485	13.8
Total	57	141.09	959	1030	672	496	358	3515	100%

Identified Developable Supply of Housing Land

The NPPF defines 'developable' land for housing as a site in a suitable location for housing development with a reasonable prospect that the site is available for, and could be viably developed at the point envisaged.

Only those sites in the SHLAA concluded as being 'suitable, available and achievable' and 'suitable, likely to become available and achievable' are capable of contributing to the Borough's developable supply of housing as only these fit with the definition offered (i.e. suitable, with a reasonable prospect that the site is available and could be viably developed at the point envisaged).

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to identify specific developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and where possible, for years 11-15. Through identifying those sites likely to deliver dwelling completions within the next 6-15 years, the Borough's 'developable' supply of housing land, as at the 1st April 2022, has been calculated in Tables 5.3 and 5.4 below (reproduced from the SHLAA).

Table 5.3 - Developable (6-10 year period) Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites)

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Forecast Completions					Total	Total as %
			27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32		
PDL	32	96.05	485	187	1181	1065	187	3105	67.7
GF	8	65.60	60	120	217	165	153	715	15.6

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Forecast Completions						
			27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	Total	Total as %
PDL/GF	4	17.1	0	0	87	110	85	282	6.1
Small Sites	n/a	n/a	97	97	97	97	97	485	10.6
Total	44	178.75	642	404	1582	1437	522	4587	100%

Table 5.4 - Developable (11-15 year period) Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites)

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Forecast Completions						Total	Total as %
			32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	36/37			
PDL	19	51.97	269	166	339	311	188	1273	51.6	
GF	1	59.45	120	120	120	120	120	600	24.3	
PDL/GF	3	18.41	55	28	27	0	0	110	4.4	
Small Sites	n/a	n/a	97	97	97	97	97	485	19.7	
Total	23	129.83	541	411	583	528	405	2468	100%	

Overall Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites Allowance)

The deliverable (years 0-5) and developable (years 6-15) housing land supply based on identified supply and small sites allowance is set out in Table 5.5 below.

Table 5.5 – Overall (0-15 Year) Housing Land Supply (including Small Sites Allowance)

	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Housing Land Supply				
			Deliverable Forecast Completions	Developable		Total	Total as %
				0 - 5 years	6 - 10 years		
PDL	94	231.37	2208	3105	1273	6586	62.3
GF	18	172.03	685	715	600	2000	19.0
PDL/GF	13	46.27	137	282	110	529	5.0
Small Sites	n/a	n/a	485	485	485	1455	13.7
Total			3515	4587	2468	10570	100%

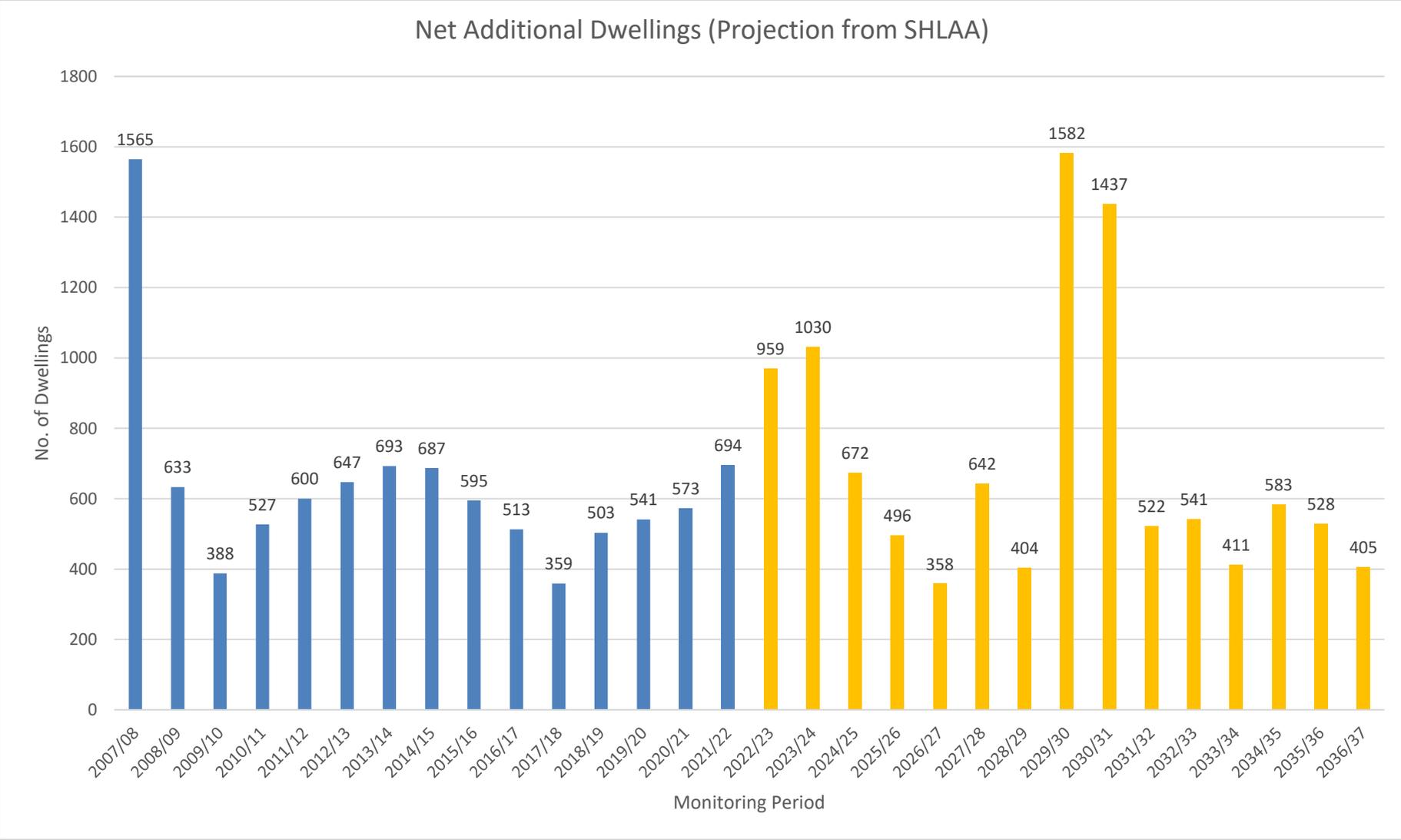
HOU1: Net Additional Dwellings Completed (2020/21)

HOU1	Net Additional Dwellings	694
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The HOU1 indicator shows that 2021/22 saw the completion of 694 net additional new dwellings (taken from 711 gross completions minus 17 losses). This compares to the 573 net new additional dwellings reported in the last monitoring period.

HOU2: Net Additional Dwellings (Projection from SHLAA)

This indicator is a trajectory over time showing how actual dwelling completions compare to the latest forecast completions that come from the latest SHLAA update (in this case, the 2022 SHLAA). The chart below shows an updated trajectory for housing completions up to 2036/37. It also shows historic completions from 2007/08 to 2021/22 to give an indication of the trend over time. The blue columns represent actual completions and the yellow columns represent the forecast completions from the 2022 SHLAA.



HOU2: Net Additional Dwellings (Projection from SHLAA)

HOU3: New Dwellings Completed on PDL (2020/21)

HOU3	New Dwellings on PDL	466 of 711 (66%)
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Indicator HOU3 shows that of the 711 gross new dwellings in this period, 466 (66%) were on previously developed land (PDL). This percentage is less than reported in the previous monitoring period (2020/21). This is due to development on none Green Belt, Green Field sites at Pewterspear, Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Thorn.

HOU4: Pitch provision for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (2021/22)

This indicator looks annually at the overall pitch provision in Warrington rather than previous AMRs which looked only at the amount of new pitch provision within the monitoring period.

The figures in this section are correct as at 31st March 2022. In this monitoring period, no new unauthorised G&T sites have been established but there has been one new G&T site (Brook House, Sandy Lane West, Orford, WA2 9SB) that has been granted planning permission on 7th March 2022. This planning consent (2021/40005) is for a residential caravan site for 8 pitches. Whilst, the proposal was for an unrestricted consent for the stationing of caravans/mobile homes for residential occupation, the justification for the application was based on meeting the needs of Gypsy and Travellers that no longer meet the definition (ie. they have permanently ceased travelling). Therefore consent was granted on that basis and the use of the site restricted by condition (03) to being occupied by any person(s) that meet the current Gypsy Traveller definition contained in Annex 1 of the PPTS (2015) or those who no longer meet the definition but who still require culturally appropriate accommodation in Warrington.

There have been no new Travelling Showpeople sites that have been granted planning permission in this monitoring period.

The information below shows the provision of G&T and TS sites in Warrington as at 31st March 2022:

Gypsy & Travellers		
Site Type	Address	No. of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	57 Gorse Lane, Orford	2
	Smithfield Caravan Park, Glazebury	2
	Woodend Farm, Rixton	1
	Two Acre Caravan Park, Walton	20
	Pennington Lane, Collins Green	4
	The Stables, Fir Tree Close, Stretton	5
	Grappenhall Lodge, Cartridge Lane, Grappenhall	6
	Former Timber Yard, Penkford Lane, Burtonwood	2
	Brook House, Sandy Lane West, Orford	8

Gypsy & Travellers		
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-	0
Tolerated Sites (Long term without Planning Permission)	-	0
Unauthorised Developments	-	0
Total Pitches		50

Travelling Showpeople		
Site Type	Address	No. of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	237 Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey	2
	Land to the north of Hall Lane, Stretton	2
	Plot 16, Athlone Road, Bewsey	5
	Vacant land East of Athlone Road, Bewsey	5
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-	0
Tolerated Sites (Long term without Planning Permission)	-	0
Unauthorised Developments	-	
Total Pitches		14

In April 2014, Opinion Research Services published a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for Cheshire, Warrington and Halton. This was the first published record of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (GT&TS) provision in the borough. The position published in the GTAA in April 2014 is shown below for comparison purposes:

Position at April 2014 (as reported in GTAA)

Gypsy & Travellers		
Site Type	Address	No. of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	57 Gorse Lane. Orford	2
	Smithfield Caravan Park, Glazebury	2
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	Two Acre Caravan Park, Walton	15
	Woodend Farm, Rixton	1

Gypsy & Travellers		
Tolerated Sites (Long term without Planning Permission)	-	0
Unauthorised Developments	Grappenhall Lodge, Cartridge Lane	6
Total Pitches		26

Travelling Showpeople		
Site Type	Address	No. of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	237 Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey	1
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-	0 0
Tolerated Sites (Long term without Planning Permission)	Foundary Street, Warrington Town Centre	2
Unauthorised Developments	-	
Total Pitches		3

NOTE: a new GTAA was published in June 2018.

HOU5: Affordable Housing Completions (2021/22)

HOU5	Completions	110
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In this monitoring period, there have been 110 affordable housing completions which shows an increase compared to the 100 reported in 20/21, however it should be noted that the figure from the 20/21 monitoring period included 28 completions from the previous year that were not reported. The majority of these completions were at Omega, Appleton Cross and the Foxwood School site.

Employment Development and Land Availability (April 2021 & 2022)

The following indicators have been set for monitoring employment development.

ED1: Total Amount of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm) – by type

ED2: Total Amount of Completed Employment Floorspace (sqm) on Previously Developed Land (PDL) – by type

ED3: Total Amount of Employment Floorspace under Construction (sqm) – by type

ED4: Employment Land lost to other uses (Hectares)

		B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Mixed B Use	Total
ED1	Floorspace (sqm)	-	-	-	-	22,715	69,886	92,601
ED2	Floorspace (sqm)	-	-	-	-	22,715	69,886	92,601
ED2	% Floorspace On PDL	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%
ED3**	Floorspace (sqm)	-	-	-	9,299	-	19,404	28,703
ED4	Hectares	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.11	0.14	1.15

The Government made changes to the Use Classes Order in 2020. From 01st September 2020 the previous B1a, B1b and B1c Use Classes, are now incorporated into the newly created Use Class E (Commercial, Business and Service). This means that a change of use to another use within Class E will be allowed without the need for planning permission, and so these changes (and therefore losses) will not now be reported within Annual Monitoring Reports.

Given the impacts of COVID 19 during the last monitoring period (2020-2021), it was not possible to complete all the employment land monitoring figures as reported in previous Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) in this period. Therefore, **the figures reported in this AMR include monitoring data for the 2020-2021 period and the 2021-2022 period.**

** Please note that the floor space 'under construction' (ED3) indicator, does not include the floor space at Omega Zone 8 (P/2020/0061/HYBR) that is in the Borough of St Helens. It has been agreed with St Helens Council through the Duty to Co-operate that 32ha of employment land in this location will count towards Warrington's employment land needs, given its proximity to the existing Omega development and its reliance on Warrington's road network.

Key Findings for Employment Land Monitoring data for this AMR Period (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022)

- The completion of 92,601 sqm of new employment floor space across 6 sites totalling 20.08 ha of land.
- Total completions in the Plan period from 2006 up to 1st April 22 stands at 242.51 ha.
- 6 sites were under construction at the 1st April 2022.
- The average annual take up rate of land for development for employment uses between 2006 and 2022 was 15.2 Ha per annum.
- Losses to other uses account for 1.15 Ha.

Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) Refresh 2021

To support the Council's Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (Draft Local Plan 2021), a refresh of the Council's 2019 EDNA was commissioned and completed in 2021.

In 2019, the EDNA identified that Warrington had a realistic employment land supply of 83.91 ha in ten sites, of which 23.94 ha in eight sites represented the local supply and 59.97 ha in two sites, represented the Strategic supply.

Since the 2019 EDNA, this figure has reduced by 45.04 ha and the revised realistic employment land supply for Warrington in the 2021 EDNA stood at 38.87 ha in nine sites. This consists of 26.17 ha in eight sites representing Local Supply, and 12.7 ha in one site (Omega), representing the Strategic Supply.

As well as establishing the Borough's realistic employment land supply, the EDNA also provides a recommendation in relation to the total amount of employment land needed across the updated draft Local Plan period (2021-2038 inclusive). As with the 2016 EDNA and the 2019 EDNA, the preferred method of calculating the amount of employment land needed is the projection forward (to include an appropriate buffer to reflect a choice of sites) of past take-up rates that considers both strategic and local needs. However, in the 2021 EDNA refresh; to reflect changes in circumstances, a 3 year supply buffer was added to meet local and strategic needs, as opposed to a 5 year supply buffer that was used previously in the 2016 and 2021 EDNA.

This, along with an allowance for the displacement of existing employment development proposed in Warrington Means Business (the Council's Regeneration Programme), has resulted in a requirement in the Council's EDNA (2021) for 316.26 ha of employment land up to 2038 to meet local and strategic needs.

Retail Development in the Town Centre

The most recent retail study for Warrington is still the Borough Wide Retail and Leisure Study Update 2019 (Nexus Planning):

[Retail and Leisure Study Update Mar2019 FINAL REPORT \(warrington.gov.uk\)](#)

RET1: New Retail Development in the Town Centre (sqm)

RET1	Floorspace (sqm)	360
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RET2: New Retail Development permitted outside defined centres (as listed in LPCS Policy SN4) (sqm)

RET2	No. of Permissions	2
	Floorspace (sqm)	463

In total, 3 approvals for new retail development were granted across this monitoring period. Of these permissions, 1 was classed as in the town centre.

Permission Reference:

2021/40630 - Change of use from an arcade to Use Class E comprising of a comic book store, gaming cafe and events hub

RET3: Vacant Floorspace in the Town Centre (Units & Sqm Floorspace)

RET3	Units	84
	% of Total Units	18.5%
	Floorspace (sqm)	23,020
	% of Total Floorspace	17.8%

The Council's Retail and Leisure Study Update 2019 identified vacancy levels within Warrington Town Centre as of May 2018. This is still the most up-to-date survey of vacancy levels in the Town Centre.

At the time of the survey, there were 84 vacant units recorded in Warrington, which account for 17.8% of all units in the centre. The majority of these vacant units are located in more peripheral locations, with a particular concentration being evident along Bridge Street. Although the vacancy rate is less than that recorded in 2014 (when there were 121 units, representing 23.5% of the total stock), it remains significantly greater than the national average figure of 11.2%. These figures show that whilst there has been some success in reducing the vacancy rate, there is still some work to do to reduce it further.

In September 2020 the Government made changes to the Use Classes Order. From 01st September 2020 the previous A1 Use Class, is now incorporated into the newly created Use Class E (Commercial, Business and Service). This means that a change of use to another use within Class E will be allowed without the need for planning permission, and so these changes will not now be reported within Annual Monitoring Reports.

Hot Food Takeaway SPD

HFT1: A5 (now Sui Generis) Planning Applications Approved with reference to the Hot Food Takeaway SPD

HFT1	No. of Planning Permissions	3
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In the monitoring period of this AMR, 3 applications were received for A5 (now Sui Generis) uses. All 3 applications gained planning permission. In the cases of approval, the Hot Food Takeaway SPD was specifically referred to in the planning officer's reports in determining the applications.

Open Space

OS1: Total Amount of Open Space (Hectares)

OS2: Total Amount of Equipped Play Open Space (Sites & Hectares)

OS3: Total Amount of Informal Play Open Space (Sites & Hectares)

OS4: Total Amount of Parks & Gardens Open Space (Sites & Hectares)

In 2016, the Council published an updated 'Open Space Audit', a position statement that provided a snapshot of the headline findings from the open space and recreation audit as at 1st April 2015. The table below shows the headline figures from the new evidence and the previous published Audit from 2012.

		Total (2014/15 Period) (2012 Audit)	Total (2015/16 Period) (2015 Audit)
OS1	Hectares	1,725	1,876
OS2	Sites	165	130
	Hectares	10	11
OS3	Sites	231	252
	Hectares	102	92
OS4	Sites	81	121
	Hectares	392	432

The large increase in identified open space (151 hectares between 2012 and 2015) has mainly come from the inclusion of several golf courses in the outdoor sports category that were not previously included in the audit.

The results show that whilst the number of equipped play sites reduced between 2012 and 2015, the actual area of these sites has increased from 10 to 11 hectares. Informal play areas saw a reduction in the site areas but an increase in the number of sites. Sites classified as Parks and Gardens saw an increase in both number and size over the three year period.

These figures have not been updated in this monitoring period but it is worth noting that planning permissions have been granted since the 2015 audit which, have included the requirement for open space that has now been provided. These will be picked up in the Council's new Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment (OSSRA), which is currently in the process of being produced. The updated figures will be published in a new OSSRA and reported in next year's AMR.

Environmental Quality

This section looks at various statistics affecting environmental quality in the Borough.

EQ1: Planning Permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice

EQ1	No. Of Planning Permissions	0
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In this monitoring period, there were no applications granted contrary to advice from the Environment Agency.

EQ2: Changes in Areas of Biodiversity Importance

EQ2	+/- Change in Area (Hectares)	0
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In this monitoring period, there were no changes to area of biodiversity importance (these include Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, SSSIs and Special Areas of Conservation).

EQ3: Renewable Energy Generation – Approved Schemes

EQ3	No. of Approved Schemes	0
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There have been no applications for large scale renewable energy schemes (Solar farms/wind turbines) during this monitoring period.

In terms of renewable energy provision as part of development schemes, the Council have granted planning permission for two development schemes that included condition(s) relating to energy efficiency and /or elements of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy generation within the monitoring period.

There have been Forty-One schemes that have required the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

EQ4: Changes to Heritage Assets (Statutory Listed Buildings)

EQ4	No. Of Listed Buildings	379
	+/- Change since 2015 AMR	0

In this monitoring period, there have been no new additions to the Statutory Listed Buildings register by Historic England. There have also been no de-listings of buildings.

EQ5: Changes to Heritage Assets (Conservation Areas)

EQ5	No. of Conservation Areas	16
	+/- Change since 2015 AMR	0
	Area (Hectares)	191.5
	+/- Change since 2015 AMR	0

In this monitoring period, there have been no changes to the existing Conservation Areas in Warrington and there have also been no new Conservation Area designations.

Minerals

MIN1: Production of Primary Land Won Aggregates

The NPPF requires Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to produce an annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) that provides an assessment of the demand for and supply of aggregates in the MPA area. The Council is working jointly with the 10 Greater Manchester Authorities, the 5 Merseyside authorities and Halton in preparing a joint LAA. The Joint Local Aggregate Assessment for Gt Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington 2019 provides aggregated figures on a sub-regional basis only. Warrington is grouped together with the Greater Manchester and Merseyside authorities (including Halton) for these monitoring purposes as figures cannot be assigned to individual boroughs for reasons of confidentiality. Whilst data has been collected for 2019, 2020 and 2021 the 2019 LAA is still the most up to date published Local Aggregate Assessment. Consequently, the same figures have been reported again. **The figures in the LAA (2019) contain sales data for the period 1st January 2018 to the 31st December 2018.**

Land won sand and gravel sales in the sub region between 2009 – 2018 (million tonnes)

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales	0.37	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.26	0.31	0.26*	0.26*	0.26*

Source: LAA 2019 (containing sales data from 2018) (published February 2021)

* Due to the commercial confidentiality where there is only one operational site, the sales figures for land-won sand and gravel in 2016, 2017 and 2018 have been based on 3-year averages.

Crushed rock sales in the sub region between 2009 – 2018 (million tonnes)

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales	0.30	0.29	0.36	0.81	0.42	0.69	0.79	0.87	0.78	0.65

Source: LAA 2019 (containing sales data from 2018) (published February 2021)

The following table sets out the forecast based on the 10-year sales data. It also shows the 3-year rolling average of sales which demonstrates the trend in sales more than the 10 year data.

Given the predicted increase in housing completions, employment, infrastructure projects and the economy in general across the sub-region, it is considered reasonable to apply an 'uplift' to future predicted demand for aggregates, rather than the previous 10 year average sales data. The table below identifies a 2% annual uplift in predicted aggregate production (based upon economic predictions outlined in the LAA Report), taking the 3 year rolling sales average as the baseline figure to give a more realistic indicator for recent demand. This has been applied over the next ten years and then an average figure taken as the predicted annual production. Actual demand is higher than local production rates and up to date consumption figures which are only available up to 2014. The BGS report for 2014 highlights the North West as one of the region's most heavily reliant on imports, with 45% of requirements being met by imports, and in the sub-region this rises to 92% of aggregate requirements met through imports.

Forecast based on 10-year supply

	Aggregate	
	Sand and Gravel	Crushed Rock
10 year average sales (2009 to 2018)	0.25Mt	0.60Mt
3-Year rolling average of sales	0.26Mt	0.77Mt
Predicted annual production	0.29Mt	0.86Mt
Total Requirement (2018 to 2033)	4.35Mt	12.9Mt
Permitted reserves as at 31/12/2018	1.2Mt	17.5Mt
Landbank as at 31/12/2018	4.12 Years (based on existing planning permission)	20.35 Years

Source: LAA 2019 (containing sales data from 2018) (published February 2021)

The forecast production for **sand and gravel** is 0.29mt. This is down 0.14mt on the 2005 – 2020 annual apportionment requirement of 0.43mt.

The forecast production for **crushed rock** is 0.86mt. This is down 0.46mt on the 2005 – 2020 annual apportionment requirement of 1.32mt.

The landbank for sand and gravel is below the requirement set out in NPPF for a landbank of at least 7 years. The landbank for crushed rock meets the requirement set out in NPPF of at least 10 years. Again, it is important to note that landbanks are based on production rather than consumption, with consumption rates known to be higher for the sub-region and only relate to the contribution the sub-region makes to meeting its needs.

MIN2: Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste

Data on secondary and recycled aggregate production and use is still variable and incomplete. This is because, while some sites operate under licence and can be monitored, much recycling and re-use occurs on individual construction sites, is temporary in nature and does not produce data. The Environment Agency’s database ‘Waste Data Interrogator’ provides the best available information. The table below shows the amount of CD&E waste produced and handled at sites in the sub-region in 2019, along with the figures for the previous monitoring period (2018) for comparison. This is still the most up to date published information. However, the totals in this table will not reflect the true amount of CD&E waste produced and managed in the sub-region because it only shows the waste that moves through licenced sites and does not include waste that is reused on site or disposed of at exempt facilities.

Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Produced and Handled in the Sub-region, Comparison between 2018 and 2019 (tonnes)

Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington		
Year	Produced	Handled
2018	3,926,127	5,082,404
2019	3,772,540	4,012,173

Source: Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator 2018 and 2019 (NWAWP AMR 2019 and 2021)

Waste

WST1: Capacity of new waste management facilities by WPA

WST2: Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management type by WPA
One application (2021/40222) for a waste management facility (Clean Plastics Recycling Facility) has been approved in this monitoring period.

WST2	Landfill	Incineration with Energy From Waste (EfW)	Incineration without Energy From Waste (EfW)	Recycled/Composted	Other	Total Waste Arisings
	1,795	52,915	0	39,753	0	94,463

In general terms monitoring has seen a reduction in the total amount of municipal waste arisings over the last twelve years (down from 104,511 in 2009/10 to 90,646 tonnes in 2018/19). However, the 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 monitoring periods have seen increases of 2,260, 6,643 and 3,817 tonnes respectively in the total municipal waste arisings when compared with 2018/19. This is a slight reversal of a general downward trend in the total municipal waste arisings seen in recent years. This can primarily be attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic as residents spent more time at home, resulting in an increase in waste entering the household stream which would normally have gone into commercial waste at the workplace or at hospitality venues. The Pandemic also resulted in an increase in online shopping, thus producing additional waste from packaging.

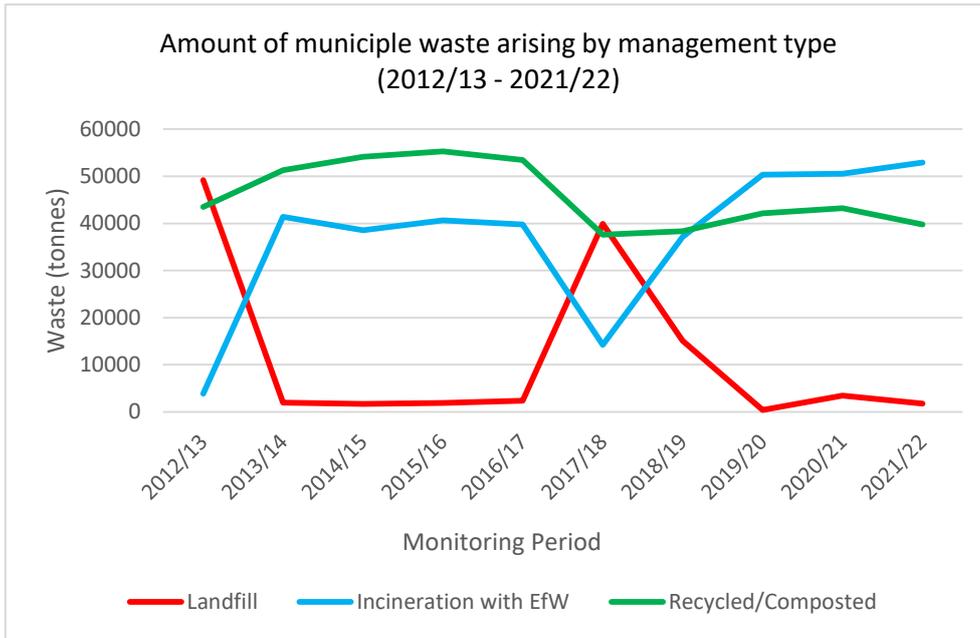
There was a fairly significant increase in the amount of waste being landfilled in 2020/21 when compared to the previous monitoring period (up from 424 to 3,485 tonnes). This was primarily attributed to a change in the Council's principal waste disposal contractor towards the end of the 2019/20 monitoring period, who allow for a percentage of material to be diverted away from EfW to landfill to cover planned and unplanned maintenance at the incinerator. This year's figure is considerably lower at 1,795 tonnes'

Despite this, the amount of waste sent for incineration for energy production has remained largely consistent with the previous monitoring period (marginally increasing from 50,567 to 52,915 tonnes) and the amount of waste being recycled/composted also remaining relatively consistent (down slightly from 43,237 to 39,753 tonnes this year).

Amount of municipal waste arising by management type (2012/13 – 2021/22)

Year	Landfill	Incineration with Energy From Waste (EfW)	Incineration without Energy From Waste (EfW)	Recycled/Composted	Other	Total Waste Arisings
2012/13	49,161	3,850	0	43,493	0	96,504
2013/14	1,936	41,399	0	51,285	0	94,620
2014/15	1,667	38,554	0	54,102	0	94,323
2015/16	1,869	40,671	0	55,255	0	97,795
2016/17	2,396	39,797	0	53,471	0	95,664
2017/18	39,894	14,257	0	37,587	0	91,738
2018/19	15,108	37,162	0	38,376	0	90,646
2019/20	424	50,357	0	42,125	0	92,906
2020/21	3,485	50,567	0	43,237	0	97,289
2021/22	1,795	52,915	0	39,753	0	94,463

As shown in the graph below, monitoring has seen significant fluctuations in the amount of municipal waste sent to landfill over the past 10 years, this can primarily be attributed to changes in the Council's municipal waste disposal contractor in February 2013 and contractual issues with Council's waste disposal contractor in the 2017/18 monitoring period. Waste sent to landfill accounts for on average, 13% of municipal waste arising in the past 10 year period. The amount of waste sent for incineration with EfW is reflective of fluctuations in the amount of waste sent to landfill, accounting for on average, 39% of waste arising in this period. The amount of waste being recycled/composted has remained comparatively consistent over the last 10 year period with on average, with 48% of the Borough's municipal waste being recycled/composted in this timeframe.



S106 Monitoring

This monitoring period (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022) saw nine new Section 106 Agreements and three Unilateral Undertakings signed totalling £4,721,373.

This monitoring period also saw the receipt of £5,067,966.62 from 18 different developments, as follows:

- Land at Tanyard Farm, Lymm
- Lingley mere Business Park, Great Sankey
- Land at Pepper Street, Appleton Thorn
- Omega
- Oakdene Nursing Home, Culcheth
- 248/250 Manchester Road
- Unit 4, Appleton Thorn Trading Estate
- Former Sycamore Lane School, Great Sankey
- Former Fox Wood School, Birchwood
- Tithebarn, Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth
- Tanyard Farm, Lymm
- Land at Dipping Brook Avenue, Appleton Cross
- Land at Delta Crescent, Westbrook
- Land at Grappenhall Heyes
- Dawson House, Great Sankey
- Omega West (Parkside), St Helens
- Barley Castle Trading Estate
- Willow Park Nurseries, Lymm

The Council has published its third Infrastructure Funding Statement in December 2022 covering the period up to 31st March 2022. This sets out details about planning obligation receipt and anticipated expenditure. The statement also sets out progress on the collection and expenditure of section 106 monies over the last financial year and planned expenditure over the next reporting period 2022/23.

A copy of the Infrastructure Funding Statement can be found on the website:

[Infrastructure funding statement | warrington.gov.uk](https://warrington.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement)

For further information on any of the section 106 agreements please contact the Planning Policy and Programmes Team on 01925 442826.

Planning Application Monitoring

In this monitoring period, the Council determined 1,138 planning applications. Of these, 1009 (89%) were approved and 129 (11%) were refused.

Statistics on determination of planning applications showed:

- 91% of 'major' applications were decided within 13 weeks (or within agreed extensions of time).
- 88% of 'minor' or 'other' applications were decided within 8 weeks (or within agreed extensions of time).

This monitoring period also saw the determination of 46 planning appeals with 31 (67%) dismissed, withdrawn or turned away and the remaining 15 (33%) being overturned.

6. IDP Update (Interim CIL Infrastructure Update)

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the associated schedules form part of a series of evidence based documents that underpin Warrington's Local Plan Core Strategy, and the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2021 (Draft Local Plan).

The IDP schedule aims to provide a comprehensive range of programmes which impact on spatial planning and aid all parties in identifying and prioritising infrastructure provision as part of an integrated approach to planning and infrastructure development. It is, however, recognised that funding arrangements and priorities of individual stakeholders will change and therefore the IDP schedule is a 'living and evolving document' that should be reviewed and monitored regularly in order to ensure that it includes the most up to date information.

The most recent IDP for the monitoring period can be found on the Council's web site:

[Infrastructure Delivery Plan - September 2021 \(warrington.gov.uk\)](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/infrastructure-delivery-plan-september-2021)

7. Duty to Co-operate

The 'Duty to Co-operate' is a legal requirement as part of the Local Plan preparation process, undertaken prior to submission of the Local Plan for Examination in Public. This 'Duty' was introduced by the Localism Act which came into effect in November 2011. Further advice on the 'Duty' is given in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012; the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the National Planning Practice Guidance 2014.

The Duty to Co-operate requires local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address 'strategic issues' relevant to their areas. Within the context of the 'Duty', 'strategic' issues are interpreted as those which are larger than local (cross boundary) and which cannot therefore be addressed by a single local planning authority working alone. The priority given to any 'strategic' issues will evidently depend on the local circumstances and in some instances there may be few or genuinely no such issues. This may include:

- The provision for new housing across a wider housing area;
- The provision of major retail, leisure, industrial and other economic development;
- The provision of infrastructure; and
- The protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 usefully clarifies the public bodies which the duty to co-operate also covers. This includes:

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Clinical Care Commissioning Groups
- Office of the Rail Regulator
- Highways England
- Integrated Transport authorities
- Highways Authorities
- Marine Management Organisation
- Local Enterprise Partnership

The Council has continued to undertake ongoing extensive and proactive engagement with adjoining Local Planning Authorities, Minerals and Waste Authorities and other public organisations on key strategic issues that affect the area and wider sub-region. This has included a high level of co-operation throughout the preparation of the Preferred Development Option (PDO 2017); the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2019 (Draft Local Plan); and the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2021 (Draft Local Plan).

Amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) require Local Authorities, when discharging the 'Duty to Co-operate' requirement through the Plan making process, to produce one or more Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with identified authorities.

The SoCG outlines the geographical area covered, the key strategic issues it addresses, the plan making authorities responsible for joint working and any additional signatories; along with the management and governance arrangements for updating and agreeing the completed statement, in line with the guidance provided in the Planning Practice Guidance.

The Council's most recent SoCG and consolidated Duty to Co-operate Statement are available to view from the link below:

[Evidence base - Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2021 | warrington.gov.uk](https://warrington.gov.uk/evidence-base/updated-proposed-submission-version-local-plan-2021)