

**City Executive Board 5th December 2012
Item 13: Planning Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12**

Response to questions from Councillor John Goddard

Q 1. 3000 target for students not in university purpose-built accommodation not yet met by either university.

Answer: This issue is addressed in paragraphs 12-15 of the covering report. The Annual Monitoring Report provides a snapshot of the number of students living in the community at a particular point in time during the previous monitoring year (up to 31st March 2012).

Due to the additional developments at Dorset House and Westminster Hall, which were completed in time for the 2012/13 academic year, Oxford Brookes University are now expected to be below the 3,000 threshold.

There was an increase in the number of students at the University of Oxford living in the community as a result of a modest increase in the number of postgraduate students. The university has, however, developed new hall places for use in the 2012/13 academic year, and a significant number of further units are currently under construction. This will bring the university under the 3,000 threshold.

Officers will work with the universities to produce a within-academic year update to the student accommodation section of the AMR in spring 2013.

Q 2. No more than 18 affordable homes completed in the last year.

Answer: It is recognised in the Annual Monitoring Report that this was a very disappointing total. A number of examples can be cited of how the City Council is being proactive in using its own assets to bring forward additional affordable housing, notwithstanding the difficult economic outlook.

The Barton Area Action Plan will be put to Council for adoption later this month, with an outline planning application expected in spring 2013. Funding has been obtained from the Homes and Communities Agency to help bring forward 112 affordable homes on various small sites owned by the Council and design work is now being progressed. A planning application is also expected soon in relation to a scheme to provide new affordable housing and community facilities on City Council owned sites at Northway and Cowley.

Q 3. The reasons for delay in starting work on the Northern Gateway.

Answer: The delay is due to the need to establish a workable transport solution before starting work on the Area Action Plan. Background technical work will be required on behalf of the developers/landowners to resolve the outstanding transport issues, in dialogue with the City Council, County Council and the Highways Agency. If and when this work has been completed, it may be possible to move forward with the Area Action Plan process.

Q 4. The shift from 3-bed to 1-bed accommodation

Answer: In previous years since the introduction of the Balance of Dwelling SPD, there has been an increase in the proportion of family units. Last year saw a reversal of this trend, which is most likely due to the fact that the majority of the homes built in the 2011/12 monitoring year were on small sites. It is often more feasible to achieve a balanced mix of housing units on larger sites than it is on small infill sites, where site specific factors may limit the opportunity to provide family-sized units. The figures for last year may be a one-off, but this will require careful monitoring in future years to see if any changes are needed to the implementation of the Balance of Dwellings policy.

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