

AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT 2013/14

Cabinet Member Cllr Richard Chesterton
Responsible Officer Head of Planning and Regeneration

Reason for Report:

To present the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) (previously known as Annual Monitoring Report) for the period 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That:

- a) **Cabinet approve the AMR 2013/14 (key facts summary and full document are appended to this report).**
- b) **authority is given to Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Planning, to make minor editorial changes to the text before the AMR is published on the Monitoring webpage.**

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The AMR analyses the performance of local planning policies and includes data on the delivery of housing (including affordable housing) and employment sites, whilst monitoring impacts on local character and the environment. This meets the Corporate Plan objectives of delivering a 'Thriving Economy', 'Better Homes' and 'Caring for our Environment.'

Financial Implications: The report itself has no direct financial implications.

Legal Implications: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to monitor the performance of planning policies and make the information available to the public. The Localism Act 2011 states that local authorities can determine which indicators they are able to monitor. Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out in more detail the contents of monitoring reports. Previously the report was known as the Annual Monitoring Report. This has now been amended to the Authority's Monitoring Report to bring the document in line with the terminology set down in the 2012 Regulations.

Risk Assessment: Within the AMR the Council is required to report upon the availability of land for housing delivery (referred to as the '5 year housing supply'). If the Council is unable to demonstrate that a 5 year supply is in place, it could be vulnerable to appeals for applications for housing development on less sustainable, unallocated sites.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local authorities to prepare reports setting out the extent to which local planning policies are being achieved. The Localism Act 2011 amended the monitoring

arrangements, removing the requirement to monitor against a set of indicators prescribed by central government. Also removed was the requirement to submit the monitoring information to the Secretary of State. Instead, local planning authorities can now determine which information they choose to monitor. The Core Strategy and Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document (AIDPD) have already established a monitoring framework, which includes a range of indicators monitoring local planning policies, against which performance must be reported. The AMR reports against these locally determined indicators.

- 1.2 The monitoring data and performance information provided covers a range of subjects including changes in population, the delivery of sustainable development and management of climate change, local distinctiveness (e.g. impacts on local character and the environment), housing, economic development and infrastructure. Commentary and key statistics are provided against each of these areas, with tables and graphs given to highlight performance. A separate key facts summary leaflet has also been produced which provides an 'at a glance' look at the key findings of the AMR.
- 1.3 Local authorities are also required to report against the progress made in the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out the timetable for the adoption of local development documents. In addition there is a requirement to report on the production of neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders, provide an update on the progress of the Community Infrastructure Levy, as well as setting out how the Council has undertaken its obligations in meeting the 'duty to cooperate'. The AMR 2013/14 details the progress made.
- 1.4 The Cabinet Report of 9th May 2013 (Agenda Item 7) states that Cabinet is the only body that needs to give approval to the AMR. Once approved, the AMR will be published on the Council's Forward Planning Monitoring webpage.

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Circulation of the Report: Richard Chesterton (Cabinet Member), Finance, Audit, Legal Services, Head of Planning & Regeneration

List of Background Papers: Previous year's AMRs, and other monitoring information, such as the Housing Land Availability Summary (which informs the content of the AMR) can be viewed on the Mid Devon website by following this link:

<http://www.middevon.gov.uk/monitoring>