

**Report for: Full Council**

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Date of Meeting:	24 April 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Governance – Proposed Changes to Policy Development Groups</b>
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Luke Taylor, Leader
Responsible Officer:	Maria de Leburne – Director of Legal, HR & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

To provide Members with a proposed change to the Policy Development Groups (PDG) and the proposed required amendments to the Constitution.

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1. That from the start of the municipal year there be five (5) Policy Development Groups: Planning, Environment & Sustainability; Community, People & Equalities; Homes; Economy & Assets; Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement.**
- 2. That the Constitution is amended to reflect the changes to the PDGs.**
- 3. That delegated authority is provided to the Director of Legal, HR & Governance (Monitoring Officer) to amend the Constitution as per the above and any other amendments required to reflect the new PDGs in conjunction with the Leader.**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **1.0 Introduction**

An update to the report provided to Standards Committee on the 13 March 2024.

### **2.0 Proposed Changes**

#### **2.1 New PDGs**

2.1.1 The current PDGs are aligned with the Corporate Plan Headings of Environment, Community, Homes, and Economy. It is recommended that the names of the current PDGs change and that there be an additional PDG, so instead of four (4) there will be five (5) PDGs. The new PDGs will be more focused and align with the emerging corporate plan. It is proposed that the PDGs will be renamed as follows:

- Planning, Environment & Sustainability;
- Community, People & Equalities;
- Homes;
- Economy & Assets;
- Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement

2.2 Each PDG will continue to have a different remit as set out below.

2.2.1 Planning, Environment & Sustainability - To be a leader and pioneer of best climate practice so new innovation and thinking is at the heart of the services we deliver and informs our planning policies.

2.2.2 Community, People & Equalities - Involving and engaging with our communities, ensuring everyone is treated with equity and respect, and protecting our most vulnerable.

2.2.3 Homes - Delivering new affordable and social homes annually, improving and maintain the existing stock to world class standards.

2.2.4 Economy & Assets - Growing the District Economy and increasing returns from our assets.

2.2.5 Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement - Delivering Council services that residents want in the right way, in the right place and at the right price.

- 2.3 PPAG (Planning Policy Advisory Group) and DDAG (Development Delivery Advisory Group) along with the Net Zero Advisory Group will remain separate to the PDGs.
- 2.4 Constitution Changes
  - 2.4.1 PDGs are outlined within the Constitution on pages 23-25. This will need to be amended to reflect the new titles and themes of the PDGs and the additional fifth PDG as per Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Page 49 of the Constitution will also need to be amended to incorporate the new names of the PDGs and include the new fifth PDG being Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement which will also have nine (9) members. All PDGs will now meet Quarterly. Please see Appendix 2 showing the proposed new Schedule of Meetings to include the new fifth PDG.
- 2.6 That delegation be given to the Director of Legal, HR & Governance (Monitoring Officer) to amend the Constitution as per the above and any other amendments required to reflect the new PDGs in conjunction with the Leader.

### **3.0 Next Steps**

- 3.1 That Full Council consider the recommendations outlined at the outset of this report.
- 3.2 A new Schedule of Meetings to be reviewed along with a new Seat Allocation to take account of the fifth PDG.

### **Financial Implications**

There will be a small cost to the Council as each Chairman of Policy Development Groups receive a Special Responsibility Allowance which currently is £3000.

### **Legal Implications**

If Council wishes to direct that changes be made to the Constitution/changing the PDGs this initially is considered by the Standards Committee and then will require Full Council's approval.

### **Risk Assessment**

There is a clear risk that making a change to governance arrangements or making no change will be perceived as unsatisfactory, depending on any individual viewpoint. The key will be in how the Council then goes about making the arrangement work and/or work better. The Council has to decide as a collective, what it considers to be the best way forward.

## **Impact on Climate Change**

None

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

None directly arising from this report, but impacts must be considered carefully in any decisions which result in a change to current practices affecting those with protected characteristics.

## **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

Our values and priorities – equally important to the ‘what’ we are trying to achieve, is the ‘how’ the organisation operates and conducts itself.

## **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:** Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

**Date:** 18.04.2024

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 18.04.2024

**Chief Officer:** Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

**Date:** 18.04.2024

**Cabinet member notified:** (yes/no)

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Maria de Leiburne, Director of Legal, HR & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Email: [mdeleiburne@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:mdeleiburne@middevon.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01884 255255

**Background papers:** None