

**CABINET**  
**28 JANUARY 2016**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT**

**Cabinet Member** Cllr Richard Chesterton  
**Responsible Officer** Team Leader Forward Planning

**Reason for Report:** To review the procedures for publishing the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) in line with national changes to reporting requirements and to reduce unnecessary pressure on future Cabinet agendas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That the Cabinet approves the changed procedure for dealing with the Authority's Monitoring Report.**
- 2. That, if approved, the Scheme of Delegation to the Head of Planning and Regeneration be amended accordingly.**

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Planning decision making is relevant to key objectives within the Corporate Plan.

**Financial Implications:** None, other than a modest saving with regard to removing the necessity to produce colour hard copies of these reports for future Cabinet meetings.

**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 annual update and clarification of the authority's current position as set out in the AMR reduces the risk of legal challenge based on the decision making process. The continued commitment to monitor and make publically available information on an annual basis is proposed to remain unaltered. The proposal for the AMR to be no longer considered formally by Cabinet should have no legal implications.

**Risk Assessment:** As there is no intention to stop producing the AMR, which includes a report upon the availability of land for housing delivery (referred to as the '5 year housing supply'), there is no increased risk with respect to vulnerability to appeals for applications for housing development on less sustainable, unallocated sites.

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1** At the meeting of Council on 11 January 2012 it was agreed that planning policy would no longer be determined by Planning Committee, but instead by Cabinet. The Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) was set up as a working group to discuss planning policy and make recommendations to Cabinet. At the 22 March 2012 Cabinet meeting consideration was given to which policy documents would be appropriate to be considered at which forum.

1.2 Since these decision making arrangements were agreed, a number of anomalies have come to light relating to streams of planning policy work which were omitted from these discussions which prompted some recent changes to the schedule in July 2015. For many years the Annual Monitoring Report, now known as the Authority's Monitoring Report following changes to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, was required to be submitted to the Secretary of State before the end of each calendar year. The requirement for the AMR to be submitted to the Secretary of State also necessitated formal Council member consideration. As the report is no longer submitted formally to government it would also no longer necessitate consideration by Cabinet. All Members would be notified each year of the Report's publication and it will also be made available on the Council's website.

## 2.0 Authority's Monitoring Report

2.1 The monitoring data and performance information within the AMR covers a range of subjects including changes in population, the delivery of sustainable development, 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 is also produced which provides an 'at a glance' look at the key findings of the AMR.

2.2 As referred to above, as the AMR is no longer submitted formally to government it would also no longer be necessary for Cabinet to formally consider it. It is proposed that it would be more appropriate for this detailed technical work to be signed off by the Head of Planning and Regeneration. All Members would be notified each year of the Report's publication, and it will also be made available on the Council's Forward Planning Monitoring webpage. This approach would be consistent with other factual monitoring work generated by the authority. Importantly much of the contents of the AMR are made available online in separate publications throughout the year, as the monitoring data becomes available.

2.3 If Cabinet is minded to approve this approach the scheme of delegation to the Head of Planning and Regeneration would also need to be updated.

<b>Contact for any more information</b>	Forward Planning Team Leader Mr Adrian Welsh 01884 234344 (awelsh@middevon.gov.uk)
<b>Background Papers</b>	Scheme of delegation to the Head of Planning and Regeneration Cabinet report of 22 March 2012 Planning Policy Procedure Cabinet report of 2 July 2015
<b>Circulation of the Report</b>	Cabinet Members, Chair of Planning Committee, Management Team