

<b>Consultation on Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets; Innovation and Transformation
<b>Outcome</b>	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough. Embrace new technologies and processes where they can bring about better experiences for citizens and visitors.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Denise Dickson
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	N/A

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1** The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) commissioned Mark Hand, Head of Planning at Monmouthshire Council to work with the 11 Planning Authorities to devise and agree a set of indicators for planning in order to develop a Planning Performance Monitoring Framework (attached at Appendix 2). The objective was to make recommendations for a framework to measure performance in a proportionate and meaningful way and to use the data collected to help drive service improvements.
- 1.2** This Framework is an ongoing piece of work that Planning Committee provided comment on previously (Appendix 4). This draft Framework has taken account of some of the previous comments received.
- 1.3** It is intended to commence monitoring from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 with the first quarterly report being issued after June for internal purposes only. DfI will publish quarterly reports to Councils to input data collated by Council and agree content of the reports. It is proposed that these additional performance targets will form part of the published official statistics and will be used annually by DfI within an overall NI-wide planning report.

## **2.0 Details**

- 2.1** Further to Council's letter of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, DfI have amended the indicators to take account of the main points raised. However, there remain a couple of points of note.
- 2.2** The amended performance Monitoring Framework has introduced a year annotation to Indicators 1 and 2. There is no explanation to what these bracketed years refer to

and there is no justification as to why they are required. Therefore, reference to years should be removed.

**2.3** It is acknowledged and welcomed that account has been taken of the submission of Environmental Statements under Indicator 3.2. However, the time to process should not be calculated from the date the application is valid but rather from date the Environmental Statement (ES) or submission of Further Environmental Information (FEI) is received.

**2.4** Furthermore, this should not be restricted to the major category of planning applications as it is equally applicable to the local category of planning applications which may also be ES applications. Therefore, a similar Indicator to 3.2 should be included for the local planning applications again time commencing from date ES or FEI received.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

**3.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Committee agrees to the Head of Planning responding to DfI welcoming the changes made to the Framework and requesting further consideration of

- Indicator 1: Removal of reference to year in brackets
- Indicator 2: Removal of reference to year in brackets
- Indicator 3.2: Should read 'Average time taken to determine major applications requiring an environmental statement from date Environmental Statement / Further Environmental Information received to decision or withdrawal'
- Indicator 4: include indicator for local applications similar to amended Indicator 3.2 for major applications