

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 15 April 2002)

1. REVISED DEPOSIT STAGE OF THE LOCAL PLAN ALTERATIONS (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 206)

The Cabinet has considered the revised deposit stage of the Local Plan alterations and has noted that since the last review over 2 years ago the whole nature of the Council's decision making process had changed.

The Cabinet's view is that for the Council to truly protect the heritage of the New Forest much more work needs to be done on the Local Plan. In particular three specific areas should be considered further.

Firstly the Local Plan should enable the provision of sufficient affordable housing. Many housing associations were frustrated at seeing some of their schemes apparently blocked by the Council's policies. Secondly, in relation to employment opportunities, current policies were seen as unhelpful. Thirdly, there was a lack of affordable care for the elderly within the district. The Cabinet noted that the health authorities wished the Council to reconsider this aspect of their policies.

The Cabinet agreed that further consultation with all the Council's stakeholders was necessary, particularly in the light of the forthcoming National Park designation and the need to plan strategically for the future. The Cabinet has therefore agreed that the Revised Deposit Stage of the Local Plan alterations be deferred to enable further consideration to be given to the key elements that need to be addressed.

A number of members felt that they had not been fully engaged in the process and this deferral would enable them all to have a direct input. It was not intended to introduce a significant delay or to revisit every detail of the Local Plan.

The Planning Development Control Committee and the Economy and Planning Review Panel will be fully involved in the further considerations.

**Cllr S A Hayes
CHAIRMAN**