

Report of the Head of Planning and Enforcement

S.106/278 PLANNING AGREEMENTS - QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides financial information on s106 and s278 agreements in the North Planning Committee area up to 30 June 2017 where the Council has received and holds funds.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the contents of this report.

INFORMATION

1. Paragraph 24 of the Government's Planning Practice Guidance, encourages local planning authorities to make publically available information with regard to what planning obligation contributions are received by the Council and how these contributions are used. This ensures transparency and is therefore considered to be good practice. Details of the financial obligations held by the Council are reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis through the "Planning Obligations Financial Monitoring Report". The report informs members and the public of the progress being made in the allocation of financial obligations and their implementation.
2. The information contained in this report was reported to Cabinet on 19 October 2017 and updates the information received by Cabinet in June 2017. The attached Appendix 1 provides updated financial information on s106 and s278 agreements in the North Planning Committee area up to 30 June 2017, where the Council has received and holds funds.
3. Appendix 1 shows the movement of income and expenditure taking place during the financial year. The agreements are listed under Cabinet portfolio headings. Text that is highlighted in bold indicates key changes since the previous report of July 2017 to the Planning Committee. Figures shown in bold under the column headed 'Total income as at 30/06/17' indicate new income received. Agreements asterisked under the column headed 'case ref' are those where the Council holds funds but is unable to spend them for a number of reasons. These include cases where the funds are held as a returnable security deposit for works to be undertaken by the developer and those where the expenditure is dependant on other bodies such as transport operators. In cases where schemes have been completed and residual balances refunded, the refund amount is either the amount listed in the "Balance of Funds" column or where the

amount listed in this column is zero the difference between the amounts listed in the columns titled "Total Income as at 31/03/17" and "Total Income as at 30/06/17".

4. Members should note that in the Appendix, the 'balances of funds' held include funds that may already be committed for projects such as affordable housing and school expansion projects. Expenditure must be in accordance with the legal parameters of the individual agreements and must also serve a planning purpose and operate in accordance with legislation and Government guidance in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). The Council has adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance for Planning Obligations that provides the framework in which the Council will operate.
5. Members should also note that the listed "balances of funds", i.e. the difference between income received and expenditure, is not a surplus. A majority of the funds is linked to projects that are already underway or programmed but have not been drawn down against the relevant s106 (or s.278) cost centre. The column labelled "balance spendable not allocated" shows the residual balance of funds after taking into account funds that the Council is unable to spend and those that it has committed to projects.

Financial implications

6. This report provides information on the financial status on s106 and s278 agreements up to 30 June 2017. The recommendation to note has no financial implications.

CORPORATE CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Legal

It is a requirement of the District Audit report into planning obligations and the Monitoring Officers report that regular financial statements are prepared.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

There are no external consultations required on the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

District Auditor's "The Management of Planning Obligations" Action Plan May 1999
Monitoring Officers Report January 2001
Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document Adopted July 2008 and revised 2014.
Cabinet Report October 2017.

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