

Deborah Urquhart

Cabinet Member for Environment
Member for Angmering & Findon Division
Telephone: 03302223615
e-mail: deborah.urquhart@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

Room 102
County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
P019 1RZ



3 October 2018

Mr Andrew Barrett-Miles
Chairman
Environment, Communities & Fire Select Committee

Dear Andrew

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee, 21 September 2018 in relation to Item no. 7 – Strategic Planning

At the above meeting and in relation to the above item, the Committee recommended that, 'the Cabinet Member consider the challenges and whether there are any impacts on the County Council's Strategic Planning and delivery, and any potential implications on its Capital Spending Programme.'

My response is that the County Council is fully engaged, as a statutory consultee, in the preparation of Local Plans by the district and borough councils and the South Downs National Park Authority. A key part of this work is assessing the potential impact of proposed new development on County Council services over the long-term (15 years). Where new or improved infrastructure is required to mitigate the impacts of development, such needs are captured in the Strategic Infrastructure Package (SIP) that is prepared for each plan area.

One of the main challenges is that, although it is reasonable to expect developers to contribute to the provision of such infrastructure, there is a need to ensure that the level of such contributions does not undermine the viability of individual sites or the overall deliverability of the plan. Therefore, although the County Council works with the planning authorities to ensure that the maximum amount of developer contributions are secured, whether via s106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), there is always likely to be a need for other sources of funding, for example, the County Council's own Capital Programme, Government grants and other external funds e.g. Local Growth Funds.

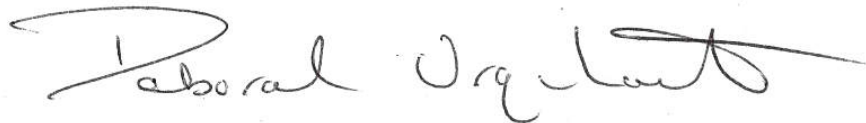
One of the other main challenges is the fact that the County Council has no statutory role in the CIL process and there is no guarantee that such funds will be made available for County Council services. To mitigate this, the County Council seeks to work with the CIL Charging Authorities, through the governance arrangements that they have put in place, to ensure that, as necessary, (a) specific items of County Council infrastructure are prioritised for delivery and (b) that CIL funds are made available 'as and when' they are required.

With regard to the implications for the Capital Programme, the SIPs identify how each item of infrastructure is likely to be funded, whether via s106/CIL, capital borrowing, or Government/other external sources. Therefore, the Capital Programme is built, in part, based on (a) the likely need for new or improved infrastructure to support the delivery of new development and (b) an item-by-

item assessment of how such infrastructure is likely to be funded. Such assessments are reviewed on an annual basis to take account of any new information or evidence relating to the need for the infrastructure and/or funding sources.

In summary, the County Council already works closely with the plan-making authorities to understand the potential impacts of new development on County Council services and to maximise developer contributions towards any new or improved infrastructure that is required to mitigate such impacts. It is also working with the CIL Charging Authorities to secure, where required, the allocation of the levy towards the delivery of such infrastructure. In addition, the Capital Programme is based on a realistic assessment of the likely cost of each item and how it is likely to be funded. Therefore, it is not considered that any changes to current practice are required at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deborah Urquhart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deborah Urquhart
Cabinet Member for Environment