

**27 November 2013**

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**Item 5 - Public Participation**

**From Councillor Trevor Carbin, Holt and Staverton Division**

**Question 1**

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service's Public Safety Plan states, under the heading Planning Gain, "We are one of only a few fire and rescue services in the country to be fully written into local planning strategies. ... We are receiving developer contributions towards new or upgraded fire stations that we may need in the future...."

Western Area Planning agendas often contain requests from the Fire and Rescue service for developer contributions, but these are invariably declined\*.

Could officers clarify the position about such requests, and explain the service's claim to be in receipt of developer contributions?

\*eg 13/02945/FUL 6/11/13: " The Fire and Rescue Service have requested a sum of money however there is not a policy within the local plan to request such monies and therefore it would be inappropriate of the Local Planning Authority to do so."

Ref. WFRS Public Safety Plan 2013/13 – 2016/17 p22.

**Response**

The statement by Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service that they are 'fully written into local planning strategies' is a reference to Core Policy 3 (CP3) of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy where the list of essential infrastructure includes 'emergency services'. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan provided for in the Core Strategy also lists certain projects that have been nominated by the Fire and Rescue Service through on-going dialogue.

However, at this time, the Development Plan that the Western Area Planning Committee is required to determine planning applications in accordance with is the older West Wiltshire District Plan. This does not have any requirement for the provision of emergency services infrastructure. Until the Wiltshire Core Strategy is further advanced and the Council has considered the Inspector's findings into the recent public examination of its soundness, no great weight can be given to CP3 and it is therefore difficult to accede to requests from the Fire and Rescue Service for contributions.

The Fire and Rescue Service may be receiving developer contributions from other parts of Wiltshire where the Development Plan is different. In the medium term, a clearer pattern will emerge once the Core Strategy is adopted, and looking further ahead, when the Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) is in place.

**Mike Wilmot  
Area Development Manager, Central**