

# REPORT

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**Cllr Noeken : Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development**

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## **Proposal for raising the delegated spending limit for Section 106 contribution aided projects**

### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The following report gives details of proposed changes to the delegated spending limit currently in place for projects using funds secured by Section 106 contributions.

### **2.0 Background**

When a project is submitted to Forward Planning requesting Section 106 contribution funding, a report has to be written for area committee approval if the amount required is above the delegated spending limit. Currently, the delegated spending limits for the commuted sums are:

- Recreation (R2) - more than £5,000 requires committee approval
- Transport (G9) – no limit, all spending has to be signed off by committee
- Education (G9) – no limit, all spending has to be signed off by committee
- Maintenance (R2) – more than £5,000 requires committee approval

### **3.0 Proposal**

It is proposed that the delegated spending limit for all S106 contributions (before committee approval is required), be set at £30,000. This would enable officers and Parish Councils to agree modest projects without delays associated with committee approval. It will also standardise the spend limit on using Section 106 contributions for Recreation, Transportation, Education and Maintenance.

The reasons why these changes are required:

- Due to increasing costs within the building sector, the current spending limit of £5,000 is found to be unrealistic. The current price for an average play area or bus shelter is approximately £15,000.
- By involving a report to the area committee for spending over £5,000, delays for the projects involved are caused and additional time is spent on administration.

In order to ensure members are aware of local schemes the local ward member/s will be consulted where a project costing between £10,000 & £30,000 is being proposed.

This change to the delegated spending limit will firstly need Cabinet approval and then the constitution will need to be amended to reflect the increased limit and this will require approval by Full Council.

#### **4.0 Planning and Overview Scrutiny & Area Committee Comments**

This report was presented at the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel who agreed with the recommendations listed below. They also felt it would be of interest to the area committees and it was therefore resolved that the report should be presented at Northern, Southern, Western and City (Planning & Licensing). The Area Committees were supportive of the officer's proposals and all recommended that Cabinet approve the changes outlined in the officer's report.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

It is requested that the Cabinet note this report and adopt the alterations to the existing scheme as listed below:

- (1) the local member/s be consulted where a project costs between £10,000 & £30,000 and if an objection is raised, the project be referred to the area committee for determination.
- (2) the delegated spending limit for the release of S106 contributions be increased to £30,000.
- (3) Full Council be requested to approve the inherent amendments to the Constitution.

#### **6.0 Background Papers:**

Salisbury District Local Plan Adopted 2003 Policy R2  
PPG17

#### **7.0 Implications:**

**Legal** : Contained in the report

**Financial** : None

**Personnel** : None

**Environmental** : None

**Human Rights** : None

**Council's Core values:** Excellent Service; Fairness and Equality; open, learning Council and a willing partner; Communicating with the public; Supporting the disadvantaged.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

**Parish Affected** : All