

Western Area Committee

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REPORT

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

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The following report is being put to Members of the Western Area committee at the request of the Chairman following the resolution of the Scrutiny Panel on 15th November 2004. It 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 an 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 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 Scrutiny Panel Comments

At their meeting on 15th November 2004, the Planning & Economic Development Scrutiny Panel resolved that:

- *It be recommended to Cabinet that the upper limit up to which officers could approve the release of R2 funds be approved.*
- *That the Chairman of the area committees be consulted as to whether or not they would like this report to go to their area committee.*

5.0 Recommendation

It is requested that the Western Area Committee note this report and recommend to Cabinet:

- The local member/s will be consulted where a project costs between £10,000 & £30,000. If an objection is raised, the project will be referred to the Area Committee for determination.
- To increase the delegated spending limit for the release of S106 contributions to £30,000

Background Papers:

Salisbury District Local Plan Adopted 2003 Policy R2
PPG17

Implications:

Legal: Contained in the report

Financial: None

Personnel: None

Environmental: None

Human Rights: None at this stage

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