

Agenda Item No. 4 (d)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

5 April 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (FEES FOR APPLICATIONS,
DEEMED APPLICATIONS, REQUESTS AND SITE VISITS) (ENGLAND)
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To approve the outcome of a new, earmarked reserve account for Planning Services in order to ensure the retentions of the 20% increase in application fees within the Service.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In response to the recent Housing White Paper “Fixing our Broken Housing Market” (February 2017), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) made amendments to the relevant Planning Application Fee Regulations. These amendments came into force on 17 January 2018.

The new Regulations enable nationally set planning applications fees to be increased by 20% in respect of applications, deemed application requests on site visits. The uplift in fee is only available for those local authorities committed to investing the additional fee income in their planning departments to boost capacity in delivering improved services to support and expedite economic growth.

Essentially, the Government is keen to make sure the additional, ring fenced resource supports delivery of an effective planning system.

In line with the Council’s Financial Regulations, new earmarked reserves require the approval of the relevant Cabinet Member.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Based on an average over the last five years’ planning application fees, the 20% increase could generate an additional £40,000 per annum for the Planning Service which would be used to support additional capacity and ease budget pressures elsewhere within the Economy and Regeneration Service.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Housing White Paper 2017, Fixing our Broken Housing Market, makes provision for the increase and retention of the 20% lift in application fees. Where authorities do accept, but do not comply with the relevant assurances it has provided, the Secretary of State will consider reducing the fee level for that authority back to the original fee level.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The relevance of social value in terms of social, economic and environmental wellbeing has been considered in the preparation of this report. Meeting the current and future needs of communities and the management of scarce resources (i.e. sustainable development) is central to the role of local and county planning authorities in preparing and implementing their local plans.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – David Arnold, extension 393772.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves the creation of an earmarked reserve account in which to move all the additional planning application 20% uplift money.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment