

Divisions Affected - All

CABINET – 21 December 2021

Infrastructure Funding Statement

Report by Corporate Director for Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - a) Consider the content of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21.
 - b) Approve the publication of the report onto the Oxfordshire County Council website.

Executive Summary

2. The Infrastructure Funding Statement is a statutory statement of fact to be reported annually, by 31 December 2021 on developer contributions secured, spent or received during the previous financial year, 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.
3. The Infrastructure Funding Statement will be published on the authority's website and shows that:
 - (a) The county council secured 42 new planning obligations in 2020/21 for developer contributions worth £20.2m
 - (b) £31.1m funding was spent on projects in 2020/21
 - (c) £67.4m of developer contributions was received in 2020/21, mainly for education and transport
 - (d) future service priorities to be funded either in full or part from developer contributions include new schools, school expansions and transport infrastructure
 - (e) £102k was received in admin fees which contributes towards the service costs of monitoring the planning obligations and collecting developer contributions.

Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021

4. Local authorities are required to produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement on an annual basis in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as inserted by the 2019 regulations).
5. The reporting period is the previous financial year, so this statement covers the period 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021. The purpose of the Statement is to give policy makers and communities better insight into how developer contributions are supporting new development and local infrastructure priorities.
6. The report is broken down into a number of different sections that cover new planning obligations entered into; funding of projects within the financial year; contributions received and future funding priorities.

New planning obligations entered into

7. The county council secured 42 new planning obligations in 2020/21. The value of contributions secured from these planning obligations is £20.2m. The contributions are index linked and invoiced according to relevant trigger points in the delivery of the proposed developments.

Funding of projects within the financial year

8. £31.1m of developer contributions was spent on projects in 2020/21. The majority of this was spent on education schemes such as school expansions or new builds.

Contributions received

9. £67.4m of developer contributions was received in 2020/21. The majority was for education, with transport the next highest level of receipts.
10. £102k was also received in admin fees which contributes towards the service costs of monitoring the planning obligations and collecting developer contributions.

Future funding priorities

11. The report identifies future service priorities to be funded either in full or part from developer contributions. These priorities include new schools, school expansions and transport infrastructure, namely the Connecting Oxford initiative; Oxford zero emission zone and local cycle and walking infrastructure plans.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

12. Developer funding can be used to support corporate plan priorities providing the schemes that are to be funded meet with the terms of the planning obligation. Examples include, reducing the impact of climate change and protecting the local environment through transport projects referred to above and striving to give every child a good start in life through the provision and expansion of schools.

Financial Implications

13. There are no new or additional financial implications in this report. The report is a statement of fact relating to developer contributions.

Comments checked by:

Phillip Skiffins, Assistant Finance Business Partner (Finance)

Legal Implications

14. There are no new legal implications in this report. Legal agreements are used to secure developer contributions which must be spent in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Comments checked by:

Jennifer Crouch, Principal Solicitor, Environment Team (Legal)

Staff Implications

15. There are no new staffing implications within this report. The report is introducing the Infrastructure Funding Statement, which is an annual, statutory requirement for the council. The work undertaken to produce the report is achieved within existing resources.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

16. There are no equality and inclusion issues arising from this report. Equalities will be considered within service areas at the point at which funding is sought for a scheme.

Sustainability Implications

17. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report. Sustainability will be considered within service areas at the point at which funding is sought for a scheme.

Risk Management

18. There are reputational and financial risks to the Council through publication or non-publication of the report. Whilst there are no defined penalties for failing to publish, the reputation of the council could be affected by a failure to publish.
19. Publishing the statement creates a reputational and financial risk if there are contributions identified that have been received that have not been spent on a timely basis. In many legal agreements there is a clause that enables developers to seek a return of contributions if they have not been spent within a defined timescale. This risk is mitigated by the prioritisation of those funds that are most at risk.

Consultations

20. As the report is a statement of fact no consultations have been undertaken.

NAME	BILL COTTON
Annex:	Annex 1 - Infrastructure funding statement 2020/21
Background papers:	None.
Other Documents:	None
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December 2021	