

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	20 January 2012
Title:	Developer Contributions Policy for Hampshire's Library Service
Reference:	2995
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Nicola Horsey

Tel: 01962 845423

Email: nicola.horsey@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval from the Executive Member for a Hampshire policy for securing developers contributions towards library infrastructure improvements. It is intended that the policy will be offered to local planning authorities so that they can include library infrastructure improvements on their forthcoming Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedules and their current Planning Obligations, Section 106 agreements.

2. Contextual information

2.1 At her Decision Day on 23 April 2009, the then Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Communities approved use of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) space standard of 30 m² of public library space per 1,000 population to assess whether the current library provision will cope with the projected increases in population across Hampshire.¹ Since then a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by Hampshire's Library and Information Service (LIS) to draw up a framework for a Developer Contributions Policy.

2.2 Financial contributions, otherwise known as Planning Obligations, are commonly secured under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This provides for payments of money, either of a specific amount

¹ <http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/090423-exerec-R0416090133.html> Vision & Strategy for Hampshire's Library and information Service 2009-2014 Report dated 23/04/2009

or by reference to a formula, and requires payments to be made indefinitely or for a specified period.

- 2.3 LIS has also developed its policy for securing developers contributions to meet the requirements of Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations for the period up until April 2014, or until a CIL is introduced.
- 2.4 Regulation 123 will come into effect in April 2014 or whenever a local planning authority starts to operate a CIL. LIS is very keen to be included on CIL charging schedules and the policy is also intended to provide guidance for local planning authorities so that they might include library infrastructure improvements on their CIL charging schedules. This will ensure that funding can continue to be collected towards the improvements required to libraries as a result of development.

3. Why contributions are required?

- 3.1 Contributions are required to mitigate any reduction in service caused by increased population resulting from the housing development.
- 3.2 As described in the LIS Vision and Strategy², LIS aims to provide access to books, information and learning for people and communities to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence and to encourage lifelong reading enjoyment. Materials are provided in a variety of formats and technologies, both physical and virtual, that respond to the needs of the local community.
- 3.3 LIS is measured against a number of benchmarks and standards for quality of service which together constitute a nationally recognised acceptable level of service.
- 3.4 Development will increase the number of potential library users which the authority has a statutory obligation to support in accordance with standards and benchmarks. This will increase the financial burden on the public purse. Revenue costs of providing service come from council tax, but infrastructure costs cannot be met this way and contributions from developers will therefore be sought for service improvements, appropriate to the scale and nature of the development.

4. Method for identifying contributions required

- 4.1 Financial obligations directly related to the development must be fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development. In order to meet these requirements LIS has chosen to use a spreadsheet model

² <http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/090423-exerec-R0416090141.html> Vision & Strategy for Hampshire's Library and information Service 2009-2014

that will identify the nearest library to a development and indicate what contribution will be required. A link to the model, along with a description of how it works, can be found in the Appendix 1.

- 4.2 Based on the MLA recommended standard of 30 sq m floor space per 1000 population, the model takes into account the floor space of each library, the forecasted changes in population over the next 5 years, the net increase in population from the proposed development and uses this information to calculate whether a contribution is required and the size of the contribution.
- 4.3 In order to satisfy the test which requires obligations to be “directly related to the development”, LIS will seek contributions only to the library nearest to the development, providing it is within a defensible distance threshold of it and is therefore likely to be used by its residents. The distance thresholds have been determined from the catchments of the libraries, worked out from library membership data.
- 4.4 The model uses new build and fitting out costs based on current cost of new provision in Hampshire, IT costs based on the current cost of IT provision to Hampshire libraries and stock costs based on the Holt Jackson book price index. Costs will be updated annually.
- 4.5 The model is designed to calculate the contributions required for each individual development, taking into account resulting population changes, whether it falls within a library catchment, and deficiencies in provision in that library. Therefore each contribution required will be different. A typical contribution required towards a new library building plus stock and IT is £200 per dwelling.

5. Mechanism for collecting contributions

- 5.1 LIS will work in partnership with local planning authorities to secure contributions towards improvements to libraries. The local planning authorities will secure and collect contributions on behalf of LIS where the County Council is not party to the Section 106 Agreement.

6. Future direction

- 6.1 The policy was sent out for consultation to local planning authorities in September 2011. Responses were received from 7 authorities and these mainly fell into two categories:
 - Request for clarification on the capital budget for LIS
 - Request for an expansion of Appendix 3 to provide more detail on the improvements required for individual libraries.

As a result of the feedback received changes were made to the policy.

Following approval by the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation, the policy will be offered for adoption by the local planning authorities so they can include library infrastructure improvements on their CIL charging schedules and ensure that funding can continue to be collected towards the improvements required to libraries as a result of development.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation approves the Hampshire Library and Information Service policy for securing developer contributions for the Library and Information Service.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Vision and Strategy for Hampshire Library & Information Service, 2009-2014	<u>Reference</u> 665	<u>Date</u> 23 April 2009
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. not applicable

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. not applicable

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Not applicable

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable