

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 October 2023

Report Title	Proposed Scoping for Developer Contribution Scrutiny Panel
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Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel Scoping

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a draft scoping document for the formation of a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Scrutiny has an important role in reviewing council functions and ensuring they are fit for purpose and delivering the best possible outcomes for North Northamptonshire and its residents.
- 2.2. It was proposed by Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee that a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel should be formed to review the operations of the Council's Developer Contributions function. This report provides, through its appendix, a proposed scope for a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel, setting out the rationale, purpose and approach of such a Panel.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee consider and approve the appended scoping document relating to the formation of a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendations – To allow members of the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider the scope of a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel
- 3.3. Alternative Options Considered – Not applicable to this report

4 Report Background

- 4.1 Developer contributions are a matter of local significance. It is therefore important for the Council to have assurance that contributions are negotiated, monitored, collected and delivered within a robustly managed process. This will, in turn assist in securing much needed local infrastructure that helps to mitigate the impacts of growth within North Northamptonshire.
- 4.2 Appendix A provides a draft scoping document for the formation of a Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel. The document sets out the rationale for the Panel, its purpose and a proposed approach to conducting the review over a focussed series of meetings.
- 4.3 It is intended that the Panel will conduct a focussed review of the Council's Developer Contributions function through a series of meetings that will lead to a set of recommendations from the Panel that will be reported back to the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee.

5 Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The appended draft scoping document provides an opportunity for members to review how developer contributions are negotiated and managed by the Council through a focussed series of meetings. An alternative option to forming a Scrutiny Panel to undertake this review would be for the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee to seek to do this by way of a report to the Committee. It is however considered that this alternative would not allow adequate attention to be paid to this important issue and that a Scrutiny Panel will enable a more detailed and focussed review to take place.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 That if the draft scoping document appended to the report is approved, that a Developer Contributions Panel be formed and that the proposed meetings of the Panel be arranged.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Officer resource will be required in order to support the Scrutiny Panel process however the timescale for meetings has been proposed to enable officers to accommodate this process alongside other duties and responsibilities.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 Any corporate policies or plans relevant to the agreed scope of the review will be provided to the Scrutiny Panel.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.5 Consultation

- 7.5.1 Not applicable to this report.

7.6 Consideration by the Executive

- 7.6.1 No prior consideration or decisions have been made by the Executive in respect of the report and its recommendations.

7.7 Equality Implications

- 7.7.1 None impacting on the nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

7.8 Climate Impact

- 7.8.1 Not applicable to this report.

7.9 Community Impact

7.9.1 Not applicable to this report.

7.10 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.10.1 Not applicable to this report.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None