

Scrutiny Task and Finish Group – Draft Scoping Document

Review Topic	Developer Contributions
Officer Support	Rob Harbour – Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration Stacey Wylie – Senior Project Manager (Developer Contributions) Carol Mundy - Senior Democratic Services Officer
Rationale	<p>Developer contributions are a matter of local significance. Ensuring that contributions are negotiated, monitored, collected and delivered within a robustly managed process will help to secure much needed local infrastructure that helps to mitigate the impacts of growth within North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Prior to local government reorganisation in April 2021, all the former local planning authorities in North Northamptonshire (both districts and boroughs as well as the former county council) were responsible for their own developer contributions processes and data. This has subsequently been inherited by North Northamptonshire Council who are in the process of harmonising the former arrangements into a single, harmonised developer contributions system that will be fit for purpose, cost effective and provide robust data and processes for all developer contributions across the North Northamptonshire area.</p>
Purpose of Review/Objectives	<p>The purpose of the review is to provide the Panel with a more in-depth understanding of the position inherited at vesting day by North Northamptonshire Council in relation to developer contributions and for the Panel to satisfy itself of the work that has been done since April 2021 to harmonise and improve the quality of data and managerial processes that have been put in place.</p> <p>The review will also allow the Panel to consider where there may be further opportunities to improve the processes of securing much needed developer contributions and consequently improve the delivery of much need strategic and local infrastructure across North Northamptonshire.</p>
Timescale	Proposed start: December 2023 Proposed end: March 2024
Methodology/ Approach	<p>The review will include evidence drawn from the two internal audits of s106 conducted since 2021 and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Peer Review.</p> <p>The Panel will receive a combination of both written and verbal evidence from NNC officers with specialist knowledge in developer contributions, representatives from relevant partner organisations and councillors as may be deemed appropriate to the review.</p> <p>Relevant documentation and written evidence will be provided to the Panel in advance of each meeting.</p>

APPENDIX A

	<p>Meeting 1 What S106 is permissible, are NNC requesting all that we are allowed and the role of members, including:</p> <p>Policy & legislative framework – CIL regs, issues & opportunities within current system, viability, evidence base etc. Addressing audit & PAS Peer Review outcomes, progress since unitary - Developer Contributions Protocol & Developer Contributions Board</p> <p>Meeting 2 How are NNC making sure that the S106 monies are monitored, collected, distributed and used appropriately, including:</p> <p>Current position – overview of Infrastructure Funding Statement including funds held/forecast, ongoing monitoring requirements, new S106 secured etc. Project delivery – engagement with services, elected members and other external parties etc. Future areas of focus – IT transformation, Infrastructure Levy, improved transparency and reporting & opportunities for self-service</p> <p>Meeting 3 Consideration of Proposals to be included in final report</p>
Outcomes	To make recommendations to the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee.
Consultations/Engagements	NNC officers with specialist knowledge in developer contributions. The Panel may also wish to consider if it wishes to receive evidence from representatives from relevant partner organisations and councillors as may be deemed appropriate to the review.
Publicity	The final report of the Panel will be reported to a public meeting of the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee.
Risks and Barriers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed timescale of the review could impact upon the ability of officers to deliver business as usual activities. Officers have reviewed the proposed timeframe and believe they have the resource to meet this unless unknown priorities emerge that may require it to be reviewed. 2. The Review Panel do not reach an agreed position.