

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:
Title:	Scrutiny Review of Planning Obligations	Thursday, 1 July 2021
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr John Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan	
Report Author:	Richard Auty, Assistant Director - Corporate Services rauty@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision: No

Summary

1. A Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established in June 2019 to consider the Council's approach to Planning Obligations.
2. That Task and Finish Group has now completed its work and presented its recommendations to Scrutiny Committee on 25 May 2021.
3. Scrutiny Committee accepted the findings and through this report is requesting Cabinet approves the recommendations as set out below at paragraph 4. Please note the recommendations are slightly different to those contained in the attached report from the Scrutiny Committee as there were minor grammatical amendments made to aid clarity.

Recommendations

4. Scrutiny Committee requests Cabinet approve the following recommendations:
 - A. The creation of an Uttlesford Developers Contribution Document
 - B. A more formalised, procedural and earlier approach for Town and Parish Councils to input into Planning Obligations
 - C. Clearer and consistent reporting of Planning Obligations as part of recommending major planning applications to Planning Committee
 - D. Prioritise the population of the EXACOM database, to allow enhanced reporting and public self-service requests
 - E. Reflect on cases and projects upon their completion to maintain and facilitate improvement in delivery

Financial Implications

5. Please see attached report from Scrutiny

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation was carried out as part of the Scrutiny review
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

8. In June 2019, Scrutiny Committee established a Planning Obligations Task and Finish Group. This Group was initially chaired by Cllr Evans, who wrote the Terms of Reference. It also comprised Cllrs Criscione and Jones. When Cllr Evans took on his Cabinet role it was agreed that because the work was well underway, it could be finished by the two remaining members. The Lead Officer for the review was Nigel Brown, Development Manager.
9. There were some delays due to officer workload and the Covid 19 pandemic, although the Scrutiny Committee ensured it received regular updates on progress during this period. In May 2021 the Task and Finish Group presented its findings to the Scrutiny Committee. The Committee endorsed the recommendations made in that report and now requests Cabinet approve them.
10. Time has been allocated in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22 for a review of implementation.

11. The report from the Task and Finish Group is attached to the report as an Appendix and contains the methodology of the review and the findings which led to the recommendations.

Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Cabinet does not accept the findings of Scrutiny and rejects the recommendations	1 – the Portfolio Holder was originally part of the review team and has been involved in discussions during the process	2 – the recommendations are accepted by the committee and by relevant officers, and are seen as being beneficial in improving the council's approach	The attached report sets out the methodology of the review and reasons for the recommendations

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.