

“DCC Infrastructure Framework to 2026” – Arrangements for the Preparation and Agreement of the Key Elements of Community Infrastructure

Report of the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the arrangements for agreement of the key elements of the community infrastructure be noted.

1. Introduction

This report sets out DCC arrangements for the preparation of and agreement to "DCC Community Infrastructure Frameworks" considered by Strategic Planning, Regional and International Affairs Committee on 1 September 2008.

2. Purpose of this Report

To inform Members about the work being undertaken, through the preparation of “DCC Infrastructure Framework” documents, to inform District Councils of the future DCC infrastructure requirements (in terms of highways, education, adult and community services, green infrastructure, waste, etc) that will need to be recognised in preparing Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).

3. Background

Local Planning Authorities are preparing their detailed Local Development Documents, and it is important that DCC provides more detailed “frontloaded” advice to the District Councils about the infrastructure provision necessary to accommodate current and future development needs.

Government proposals indicate that in the future LDFs may include provision for securing funding for infrastructure provision through the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy, and this will require a clear understanding of what is required, its cost, and how it will be implemented.

4. Articulating a Devon View - “DCC Infrastructure Framework to 2026”

Effectively shaping LDFs requires a clear statement about infrastructure strategy and infrastructure proposals the County Council wishes to see included. To bring these infrastructure issues to the attention of Districts, a series of “DCC Infrastructure Framework to 2026” documents is being prepared to inform the LDF process. These will identify the infrastructure requirements, its phasing and the arrangements to secure their implementation.

The identified infrastructure requirements can then be taken into account by District Councils in:

- Preparing Local Development Frameworks and other forward planning documents.
- Determination of planning applications.
- Assessing the requirements for developer contributions for example as part of a Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 or Section 278 contributions.

“DCC Infrastructure Framework to 2026” documents will be prepared for Exeter and the main Devon towns, as part of a comprehensive input to the District wide LDFs. Priority is currently being given to Exeter, Barnstaple, Newton Abbot, Tiverton, Cullompton, and Okehampton, as being the most urgent to prepare to inform the LDF process.

4. Endorsement of Infrastructure Frameworks

Much of the detailed content of the infrastructure frameworks will be a reflection of established County Council service delivery strategies and priorities, and it is considered that these issues would not require specific formal committee endorsement. In some cases, however, decisions will need to be made in respect of major strategic infrastructure investment and priorities and these issues will need to be subject to consideration by Executive or the appropriate County Council Committee.

Subject to these considerations, it is proposed that the ongoing endorsement of specific infrastructure framework advice to the District Councils be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration, Strategic Planning and Regional Affairs and other Executive Members as appropriate.

5. Financial Considerations

The clarification of Devon County Council Town infrastructure needs will play a key part in ensuring that appropriate level of developer contributions are sought to finance or provide for necessary infrastructure to support current and future levels of development.

6. Carbon Impact and Sustainability Considerations

Regard will be had to carbon impact and sustainability consideration during the process and tested as part of the Sustainable Environment Assessment.

7. Equality Considerations

An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment has been undertaken. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken to scrutinise, gather and analyse information as the project is implemented.

8. Implications for the Devon Economy

The timely provision of all forms of infrastructure from roads to schools is vital to secure attractive and prosperous communities. The physical works will provide a wide variety of local jobs and business opportunities for local firms.

Edward Chorlton

Electoral Divisions: All in West Devon

Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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SPRIAC Report date 1 Sept 2008		
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