

EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS – DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of a draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on education contributions from new residential development schemes. The Essex Planning Officers Association has prepared the draft guidance and it is intended that it be placed on wide public consultation prior to final adoption.

2 THE HISTORY AND NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

- 2.1 The Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) received a presentation from the local Education Authority regarding education contributions from residential developments. It was decided that a consistent approach was desirable for this area of planning and that countywide supplementary planning guidance should be produced. The draft Supplementary Planning Guidance is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 A consistent approach to requesting educational contributions throughout the county would be better for local Planning Authorities, the local Education Authority and developers. This would ensure a surety in the process and would show an openness and transparency to the system. It would also enable developers to work out more of the additional development costs up front.
- 2.3 The document is a short, succinct guide to the requirements for educational contributions. It is derived from two other local Education Authority documents – the School Organisational Plan and the document *Developer Contribution Guidelines*. It is intended to give developers and local Planning Authority staff an understanding of the framework, criteria, process and sums involved. More detailed information is available in the two documents referred to above.
- 2.4 It is intended that, following authorisation from the various constituent councils, that the EPOA will co-ordinate a public consultation exercise in line with current regulations. Following public consultation, representations will be scrutinised and changes made as appropriate. Following this the guidance will be brought back before Members for final adoption.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report. The public consultation exercise will be funded by County Learning services. The final

document will be incorporated into Rochford's Local Development Framework.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no new legal implications as legal agreements regarding various features of developments, including educational contributions, are already a part of the planning process.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That, subject to comments from Members, the proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance regarding Educational Contributions be approved for public consultation, and that a report on the results be brought back in due course.

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Background Papers:

Essex School Organisation Plan (ECC)
Developer Contribution Guidelines (ECC)

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