

Topic Paper 9 – Police Infrastructure Provision

This document is one of the supporting topic papers of Suffolk’s supplementary guidance “Section 106 Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions in Suffolk”. It is intended as a guide for landowners, developers and residents and sets out how Suffolk Constabulary will deal with planning applications where the provision of and contributions towards police infrastructure may be sought.

1 POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE – CAPITAL PROVISION, CAPITAL FUNDING AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 17) places a duty on local authorities to reduce crime and disorder within the community, and it is therefore necessary to ensure that adequate mitigation measures are brought forward to achieve safe and cohesive communities within new developments.
- 1.2 The housing and employment growth requirements previously proposed for the East of England in the Regional Strategy would have been a further 48,000 dwellings and 53,000 jobs to be provided in Suffolk up until 2021. Growth of this scale would have a major impact on Suffolk Constabulary’s ability to provide effective police resourcing across the County, to discharge its duties under the above Act and to build safe and cohesive communities. Despite the abolition of the Regional Strategy, planned growth remains at similar levels.
- 1.3 The levels of growth that may occur in Suffolk could give rise to an increased incidence of crime necessitating additional police infrastructure, resources and funding. There would be a requirement for both physical infrastructure provision (e.g. sites / premises/floor space and parking facilities), and/or related funding, and where appropriate revenue funding for police facilities, which may comprise:
 - 1.3.1 Additional or enhanced police station floor space and facilities including fit out and refurbishment, and related transport facilities.
 - 1.3.2 Custody facilities.
 - 1.3.3 Mobile Police Stations.
 - 1.3.4 Communications, including ICT.
 - 1.3.5 Funding for additional staff resources such as Police Community Support Officers and equipment.

2 PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING APPROACH

- 2.1 Suffolk Police are revenue funded by a mixture of central government and local government funding. The main funding stream for the Police Authority is based on the government’s revenue and capital settlement, which uses a formula to calculate the grants awarded to Police Authorities. It is broken into four components: i) relative needs, ii) relative resources, iii) a central allocation, and iv) ‘damping’ funding formulae. The population numbers are derived from census information and projections made by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

- 2.2 Infrastructure and/or developer contributions may therefore be sought from new development to provide for the additional police infrastructure to ensure that strong, cohesive and safe communities are created and maintained, and sustainable development is delivered. Fundamentally the promotion of good design and layout is an effective way of addressing crime issues in new developments. Good designs and layouts make crimes more difficult to commit, increase the likelihood of detection of criminal activity and improve public perceptions of safety.