



# REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE

# REPORT

21 JUNE 2012

**Subject Heading:**

Planning obligations and agreements  
(as of the last 6 years)

**Report Author and contact details:**

Simon Thelwell  
Planning Control Manager (Projects and  
Compliance)  
01708 432685

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

Clean, safe and green borough	[x]
Excellence in education and learning	[x]
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	[x]
Value and enhance the life of every individual	[x]
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	[x]

**SUMMARY**

This report updates the position on legal agreements and planning obligations agreed by this Committee during the period 2000-2012.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted.

## REPORT DETAIL

1. This report updates the position on legal agreements and planning obligations. Approval of various types of application for planning permission decided by this Committee can be subject to prior completion or a planning obligation. This is obtained pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Acts. The purpose of such obligations is to secure elements outside the immediate scope of the planning permission such as affordable housing, education contributions and off site highway improvements. Obligations can also cover matters such as highway bonds, restriction on age of occupation and travel plans plus various other types of issue.
2. The obligation takes the form of either:
  - A legal agreement between the owner and the Council plus any other parties who have a legal interest in the land.
  - A unilateral undertaking offered to the Council by the owner and any other parties who have a legal interest in the land.
3. This report updates the Committee on the current position on the progress of agreements and unilateral undertakings authorised by this Committee for the period 2000 to 2012 in the attached table.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

**Financial implications and risks:** Legal agreements usually have either a direct or indirect financial implication.

**Legal implications and risks:** Significant legal resources are necessary to enable the Council to negotiate and complete legal agreements within the Government's timescale. Monitoring fees obtained as part of completed legal agreements have been used to fund a Planning Lawyer working within the Legal Department and located in the Planning office. This has had a significant impact on the Service's ability to determine the great majority of planning applications within the statutory time periods through the speedy completion of all but the most complex legal agreements.

**Human Resources implications and risks:** The effective monitoring of legal agreements has HR implications. These are being addressed separately through the Planning Service Improvement Strategy.

**Equalities implications and risks:** Planning Control functions are carried out in a way which takes account of equalities and diversity.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

See attached S106 Agreements – 2000-2012