

Committee: Planning and Transportation Committee	Date: 2 May 2017
Subject: Decisions taken under Delegated Authority or Urgency since the last meeting of the Committee	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Amanda Thompson, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk since the last meeting of the Committee, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b). This action was:

- Accept the Government's offer to increase planning application fees by 20% with effect from July 2017; and
- Note the Government had stipulated that the additional revenue should be retained by planning departments and that existing baseline and income assumptions will not be adjusted down as a result during this Parliament.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main report

1. Agreement was sought to accept the Government's offer to increase planning application fees by 20% from July 2017 as outlined in the letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) dated 21st February. A response was required by 13th March.
2. The Government's offer was conditional on the additional revenue being retained by planning departments and the baseline and income assumptions not being adjusted down as a result during this Parliament.
3. Accepting the offer would increase the basic full planning application fee from £195 to £234 and generate estimated additional income of £156,000 in a full year based on 2016/17 forecast outturn. The additional income would be used to improve the planning services provided to applicants from the pre application stage through to construction on site.
4. The options were limited to accepting or rejecting the Government's offer as there was no scope to vary the rate of increase as stated above.
5. The option to increase the fees would increase the basic full planning application fee from £195 to £234 and generate an estimated £100,000

additional income in 2017/18 and £156,000 in 2018/19 based on 2016/17 forecast outturn.

6. The additional funding will be utilised to improve the planning services provided by ensuring a more joined up service for applicants from the pre application stage through to construction on site and will be used to facilitate and expedite processing times by ensuring the expertise and staff resources are in place to do that.

Action Taken

7. The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, agreed to accept the Government's offer to increase planning applications fees by 20% from July 2017 to generate additional income that could be used to improve the planning service.

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