

<b>Key Decision Required</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan</b>	<b>No</b>
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## CABINET

22 JANUARY 2018

### REFERENCE REPORT FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 4 DECEMBER 2017

**A.2 CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2017/18**  
(Report prepared by Anastasia Simpson, Catherine Bicknell and Katie Sullivan)

#### **BACKGROUND**

As a result of cross-sector concerns that local authority planning departments may not have sufficient resources to provide an effective service and that developers would be prepared to pay higher planning application fees the government consulted on proposals which could ensure there was a link between an increase in fees and a high quality planning service, for instance through giving greater fee flexibility in exchange for radical planning service transformation and also recognising that fees had not been increased since November 2012.

The Government's response was published in February 2017. It said that it would introduce a 20% increase in fees for all authorities -

We are bringing forward a package of measures in the Housing White Paper to address concerns about local authority resourcing, including a 20% increase in planning application fees by summer 2017. Alongside these measures, we will continue to engage with areas interested in reforming their planning service and committing to performance improvements, in return for greater fee flexibility.

At the Corporate Management Committee meeting held on 4 December 2017 (Minute 39 refers) the Committee received a report from the Corporate Director, Corporate Services regarding the Council's Corporate Budget Monitoring for the Second Quarter 2017/18. Members expressed concern that the government have yet to introduce the revised fee schedule.

Members of the Corporate Management Committee would like to request that the Cabinet write to the Department for Communities and Local Government to find out more about the expected timetable for the revised fee schedule.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET**

It was **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

It was also **AGREED** that the Committee **RECOMMENDS TO CABINET** that:

- (a) the Committee requests that Cabinet contacts the Department for Communities and Local Government to find out more about the proposed timetable for the revised fee schedule.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

##### **Comments**

The Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder would like to thank the Corporate

Management Committee for its recommendation.

*“My understanding is that the Department for Communities and Local Government are waiting for the regulations to be laid before Parliament. It is expected that this may happen in early 2018. Once the regulations are approved, a revised fee schedule will be issued for Councils to implement. The Council intends to implement the higher fees as soon as the revised fee schedule is approved.*

*The process is under-way, however, it is moving slower than anticipated.”*

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

That Cabinet notes the recommendation of the Corporate Management Committee.