

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA550797078

Submitted: 29 September 2023 17:56 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Publication of the revised Essex County Council Developers' Guide to Infrastructure Contributions 2023

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy / decision: The Developers' Contribution Guide details the scope and range of contributions towards infrastructure which ECC seeks from developers and landowners in order to mitigate the impact of their development and make it acceptable in planning terms. ECC have operated a Guide to identify the infrastructure requirements to mitigate and support sustainable growth since 2003. The current guide in use was last updated in 2020. Updates are required now to reflect the increased cost of delivering infrastructure as well as updated policy approaches such as net zero/climate action, sustainable travel, employment and skills.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Cabinet member approval for the publication of the Guide on the ECC website and its subsequent use to inform requests for developer contributions.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Tom Walker (Economy, Investment and Public Health)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Cllr Tom Cunningham (Planning a Growing Economy)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: Change to an existing policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: Contributions towards developments secured through the principles of the Guide are managed and monitored through the Strategic Database, which is used to track income and expenditure of contributions on infrastructure alongside the ECC finance system. The Guide is built from evidence from many ECC Services, they are responsible for their evidence and ensuring the requirements of the Guide meet the needs of their area. The Guide is updated periodically, usually every few years, to reflect updated policy or costs.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?: Good jobs, Infrastructure, Future growth and investment, Green growth, Levelling up the economy

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Net zero, Transport and built environment, Minimise waste, Green communities, Levelling up the environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families: Education outcomes

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: None

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: None

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: None

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developers across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development. Given a feature of the Guide is the increased requirement for education funding from developers, it is considered that the Guide will impact younger age groups more directly.

Similarly, one of the changes to the Guide is a reduced threshold for contributions towards SEND education, resulting in increased contributions to this aspect of education, hence the rationale for identifying a positive impact on learning disabilities.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: No negative impacts identified.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Future reviews of the Guide, undertaken every few years, will serve to ensure impacts of new development on ECC provided infrastructure is mitigated as necessary through increased contribution requests.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: None

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developers across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development. Given that a feature of the updated Guide is the increased requirement for education funding from developers, it is considered that the Guide will impact younger age groups more directly.

Similarly, one of the changes to the Guide is a reduced threshold for contributions towards SEND education, resulting in increased contributions to this aspect of education, hence the rationale for identifying a positive impact on learning disabilities.

The Guide is a Countywide document, contributions from developments across the whole area will be required and these will support delivery of infrastructure as necessary, including in these priority localities.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Future reviews of the Guide, undertaken every few years, will serve to ensure impacts of new development on ECC provided infrastructure is mitigated as necessary through increased contribution requests.

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: None

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Sex workers

Nature of impact: None

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: None

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: None

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developments across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development.

Whilst no specific negative or positive impact is identified on these cohorts, the Guide will ensure quality infrastructure provision across the County and for all communities. So whilst positive impacts aren't targeted towards these cohorts, it's clear that indirectly these groups will benefit from an updated Guide alongside all others.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: None

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in urban areas

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developments across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development.

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What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developments across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development.

Whilst no specific negative or positive impact is identified on these cohorts, the Guide will ensure quality infrastructure provision across the County and for all communities. So whilst positive impacts aren't targeted towards these cohorts, it's clear that indirectly these groups will benefit from an updated Guide alongside all others.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Crime & Disorder

Crime and disorder

Nature of impact: None

The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

Nature of impact: None

Re-offending

Nature of impact: None

Serious violence

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:

The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developments across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development.

Whilst no specific negative or positive impact is identified on these cohorts, the Guide will ensure quality infrastructure provision across the County and for all communities. So whilst positive impacts aren't targeted towards these issues, it's clear that indirectly these matters will benefit from an updated Guide alongside all others.

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

None identified

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: Yes

Have you calculated the predicted operational energy demand and the carbon emissions (both operational and embodied) impact of the development / infrastructure / building?: No

Does your proposal align with the Net Zero Carbon (in operation) definition being promoted through best practice and emerging planning responses at ECC?: Yes

Please provide details: The Guide aims to secure financial and other contributions which will be used towards infrastructure such as education facilities, libraries and transportation. The evaluation of the energy demand of specific infrastructure will be carried out as necessary at the relevant decision making stage of this infrastructure. It is not possible nor necessary for the carbon impact/energy demand of the Guide to be calculated as part of this decision.

Have you assessed the upfront embodied carbon emissions (building life cycle stages A1-A5) of your proposed project and have you set targets in line with best practice to reduce embodied carbon emissions?: No

Your development needs to be resilient to projected climate risks including flooding, overheating and subsidence. Please outline how you will achieve this: The Guide has been updated to reflect the climate action/net zero policies in place at ECC, however the Guide itself won't be responsible for such risks nor resilience to such matters.

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): No

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: No

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: None

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Positive

Waste: None

Extent of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: High

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Guide aims to generate financial and other contributions from housing developments across the County and use these contributions to support the delivery of community and transportation infrastructure in those locations impacted by new development. The updates are aimed at securing contributions towards infrastructure which will support delivery of sustainable and active travel.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: None identified

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 29/09/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Alethea Evans

Email address of person completing the ECIA: alethea.evans@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Economy, Investment and Public Health

Your service area: Planning and Sustainable Growth

Your team: Infrastructure Planning

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk