

## **STAFFORD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **MEETING BETWEEN STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE & STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DATE OF MEETING – 27 JUNE 2008**

#### Officers in Attendance

Richard Gough - GPS consultant on behalf of Staffordshire Police  
Alex Yendole - Stafford Borough Council, Principal Planning Officer

- A discussion took place regarding the justification needed to strengthen the Police's requirements from planning obligations to support additional resources and reasonable infrastructure. Staffordshire Police stated that there is no immediate spare capacity to address the increased scale of development. Different forms of development have different levels of requirement from the police service (i.e. residential or employment).
- Analysis of existing crime rates and the number of instances will be used to establish the position of what new resources will be needed. New development does not necessarily create more crime but it is important to address the fear of crime.
- On average there is approximately 1 police officer for every 114 households but this ratio needs to consider cumulative developments. Funding is needed to cover a lack of accommodation (i.e. buildings) to provide for more custody units if more people are held in the future. New development may cover staff start up costs for the police officers but not salary costs, and staff set up costs for support staff.
- The Police have a general set of criteria required from new development as well as a locally distinctive approach for Stafford Borough, which needs to be analysed. Developers could ask for the evidence to make provision. The case may change over time depending on hot spots, operational areas and capacity. It is important to consider the balance between back office and front office personnel.
- Town centre accommodation for Stafford could be provided either through a new police station or via neighbourhood policing units. Home Office requirements provides spare cells in different locations when necessary along with community police officers and back office services. The evidence must establish existing capacity and identify where spare capacity is to be provided with new thresholds. New development areas will need to be considered in terms of 'secured by design' through the police architectural liaison officer.

- Staffordshire Police support enabling policies for developer contributions, with reference in core strategy's. A supplementary planning document (SPD) on planning obligations should refer to the police authority's work but is to be adopted by the local authority. AY to assess the SPD process and provide information on development sites for consideration. It is important to establish what is and is not appropriate.
- A Supplementary Planning Document has been provided to other Staffordshire authorities. Furthermore major development schemes involve discussions with the Police. Stafford Borough Council is bringing forward the Local Development Framework with future engagement meetings in due course to address matters at the appropriate stage.
- Figures from the Home Office are produced, which have been moderated to the Stafford Borough area. Custody cells for Staffordshire are provided at a certain size per square metres. A new facility for providing custody suits has recently opened in South Staffordshire. For Stafford there has been a move of resources to other locations outside of the town centre so less space is now needed.
- Date of Next Meeting – to be arranged for Autumn 2008.

Note prepared by Alex Yendole  
Date last revised: 08/01/2009  
Forward Planning Section, Stafford Borough Council