

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member – Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	17 January 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Pre-Application Charging
<b>Reference:</b>	3590
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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**1. The decision:**

- (a) That the County Planning service introduces, as a pilot for 12 months, from 1 April 2012, a pre-application charge to developers seeking planning advice on the more significant and complex mineral and waste proposals.
- (b) That the pre-application charging regime referred to in (a) above be based on an adaptation of Option 1 of the public consultation, as outlined below:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Type of enquiry</b>	<b>Charge</b>
All mineral and waste development	Initial 30 minutes verbal advice	FREE
Major EIA or equivalent applications	Site visit, and site meeting or office meeting and written advice	£600 + VAT
	Additional follow up meetings- per meeting	£300+ VAT
	Option of Planning Performance Agreements to include other specialists	Case by case basis*
Minor applications	Site visit, & site or office meeting & written advice	£200 +. VAT
	Additional follow up meetings- per meeting	£100 + VAT

\*'Case by case basis' – each application assessed on an individual basis.

- (c) That a progress report be presented to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport halfway through the pilot scheme and a final evaluation report at the end of the 12 month pilot.
- (d) That approval be given to further explore the use of Planning Performance Agreements to set out the framework for processing significant major mineral and waste applications and that a report be presented to an Executive Member meeting in the Spring of 2012 on the findings of this research.

## **2. Reasons for the decision:**

2.1. It is considered appropriate for the County Planning service to introduce a charge for pre-application advice for mineral and waste developments to:

- assist in recovering the current cost of this service as part of the Department's budget strategy;
- increase the quality of planning application received;
- speed up the planning application process;
- help engage and assist members in their decision making;
- increase the quality of sustainable environmental design and outcomes achieved; and
- further increase the County Council's reputation as a leading planning authority.

2.2. The implications of using PPAs are yet to be finalised. Experience from the one offered to reimburse the costs (subject to certain limits) of engaging with the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project for the windfarm at Navitus Bay will inform the Council in due course.

## **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. **Not implementing pre-application charging and keeping the status quo** would mean the County Planning service not being able to recover some of its costs resulting in reduced resources affecting the quality of the existing service.

3.2. **Not selecting Option 2 or 3 as outlined in the public consultation and the report to Executive Member of 17 August 2011.** Option 2 is a higher flat rate not supported by consultees; and Option 3 although supported by some consultees being based on an hourly rate would commit more administrative resources.

3.3 It is not proposed to charge for pre-application advice for County Council proposals.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**17 January 2012**

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport  
Councillor M J Kendal**