

## TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HEAD OF SERVICE'S DECISION

Committee: Executive.....

Chairman: ..Councillor Ian Carr...

Head of Planning Service: ...Madalene Winter.....

#### Service Level Agreement with Taylor//Wimpey

#### REASON FOR URGENCY

(After consultation with the Chief Executive on 25<sup>th</sup> July)

Taylor/Wimpey are anxious to progress their housing development on the Major Development Area at East Anton, Andover as quickly as possible following the issuing of the Outline Planning permission which is imminent. There remains a lot of work for council Officers to do in connection with the detailed work to discharge conditions, submit detailed proposals for the agreed infrastructure, the structural landscaping, open space and playing fields and reserved matters applications for the dwellings and community buildings.

The Senior Planning Officer who has been dealing with most of the case work for this site is now on maternity leave and we have been unable to replace her with a suitably experienced officer on a temporary basis. Instead we have "back-filled" with a more junior planner for two days per week and allocated the work on major applications amongst our other Senior officers. As a result we are struggling to meet reasonable deadlines for responses to the sort of detailed work outlined above. In addition staff in the Landscape section, Highways and Leisure are also under pressure.

The developers are aware of this situation and have offered to provide funding to the Council to enable additional resources to be provided so that their target timescales for the development can be met. It is considered that it could be appropriate that time spent to meet agreed deadlines for work would be recorded by the relevant officers and then invoiced to the developers. It is estimated that this would not exceed a maximum of £40,000 pa and would be in place for approximately 18 months.

A decision needs to be made as a matter of urgency to engage Counsel to advise upon and to draft an appropriate agreement so that it can be in place to meet the developer's timetable which would require work from our officers from mid-August.


**DECISION**

(After consultation with the Chairman (or in his absence the Vice-Chairman), who has not requested that the matter be referred to a special meeting of the Committee).

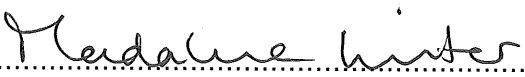
1 That the offer made by Taylor/Wimpey to fund the Council to provide resources to meet deadlines for work to deal with the details of the housing development on the Major Development Area at East Anton, Andover be accepted and

2 That Counsel be engaged by the Head of Legal Services to advise on the appropriateness and form of funding in relation to a Service Level Agreement with Taylor/Wimpey and to draft the content of the agreement.

Chief Executive's/  
Director's Signature: .....  ..... Date: 8.8.07

Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's  
Signature: .....  ..... Date: 9.08.07

Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's  
(Overview & Scrutiny Committee)  
Signature: .....  ..... Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Head of Service's  
Signature: .....  ..... Date: 8.8.07

Reported to Committee on ..... Date: .....

**DISTRIBUTION**

- 1. Chief Executive
- 2. Corporate Director (BS)
- 3. Corporate Director (CM)
- 4. Head of Legal Services
- 5. Head of Administration (original for report to Committee)

**BACKGROUND PAPER:** .....