

To: Cabinet
Date: 13 December 2023
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Authority Monitoring Statement and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24; Local Plan 2036
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 04 December 2023 to consider a report concerning the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 December 2023, recommends that Cabinet approves the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23 for publication and delegates authority to the Planning Policy and Place Manager to make any necessary minor corrections which do not materially affect the document prior to publication.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Upton (Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities), Rachel Williams (Planning Policy and Place Manager), Alexander Sutton (Planner), Lorraine Freeman (CIL, Data Analysis and Reporting Team Leader) and Lan Nguyen (Senior Data Analyst) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities introduced the report. The Authority Monitoring Report was a statutory requirement providing information as to the extent to which the policies set out in the Local Plan 2036 were being achieved and on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme. The Infrastructure Funding Statement was a statutory requirement which summarised the amount of developer contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106)) obtained, allocated and spent by the Council in the 2022/23 financial year.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to student numbers and exclusions when calculating those numbers; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student numbers; scope for the Council to cap the number of students at other educational institutions which are not universities (e.g. sixth forms, language schools, colleges etc.); the monitoring of dwelling permissions versus dwelling completions each year; and heritage assets.
5. In particular, the Committee discussed the data trajectory surrounding student numbers in the City and was interested to know the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on that trajectory, as there was a clear decrease in the number of students from 2020/21. The Committee was advised that it would be difficult to compare numbers of students pre-COVID-19 versus post-COVID-19 as the definition of students captured by the student threshold had changed; which would make the collection of comparative data impractical and would be unlikely to lead to an accurate, and therefore useful, comparison. The Committee accepted the impracticalities surrounding such a comparison, but noted that it would be helpful for future iterations of the report to set out the change in definition of students captured by the student threshold at the boundary where it changed so that it was clearly identifiable – and would avoid the same questions being raised by the Committee year-on-year.

Recommendation 1: That the Council sets out the change in definition of students captured by the student threshold at the boundary where it changed in future iterations of the Authority Monitoring Report.

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