

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

(i) **Details of decision**

Amendments are proposed to Section 3 of the Planning Obligations Strategy concerning contributions towards school places, in the light of a recent appeal decision. These are interim changes, pending a more comprehensive review of the Strategy later in 2007.

(ii) **Reasons for decision**

It is clear from comments made by a planning inspector and by the Sec of State following a recent appeal that the relevant paragraphs in the Planning Obligations Strategy should be urgently revised in order to address any weaknesses. While the proposed changes mean that the contributions for education are likely to be reduced proportionately in the future, it is essential that these changes are made so that the basis on which contributions are sought will be more robust and less open to challenge.

(iii) **Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

Whilst it would in theory be possible to continue with the adopted section on contributions towards school places in the Planning Obligations Strategy, pending a review of the entire document later in 2007, it would not be advisable, as the Council would be left open to challenge at appeal.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

None

### **Dispensation**

None

### **Decision taken by:**

(i) **Name:** Cllr Elengorn, in consultation with Cllr Eady, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services.

(ii) **Portfolio:** Environment

**Date of Decision:** 26 January 2007

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 26 January 2007

**Date decision effective** (i.e. 5 days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by two members of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee): 5 February 2007