



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Simon Gallagher  
Director of Planning

Department for Communities and Local  
Government

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Chief Executives of Local Planning  
Authorities in England  
[Via Email]

21 February 2017

Dear Chief Executive,

### Planning application fees: the Government's offer

'*Fixing our broken housing market*' was published on 7 February 2017. It includes proposals for boosting local authority capacity and capability to deliver, improving the speed and quality with which planning cases are handled, while deterring unnecessary appeals.

As set out paragraph 2.13 of the White Paper, developers consistently tell us that the lack of capacity and capability in planning departments is restricting their ability to get on site and build. Alongside funding, local authorities also report difficulties in recruiting and retaining planners and others with specialist skills. There may also be wider capacity and skills issues for local authorities. To boost local authority capacity and capability to deliver, paragraph 2.15 explained that the Government will **increase nationally set planning fees**. Local authorities will be able to increase fees from 20% from July 2017 if they commit to invest the additional fee income in their planning department.

This letter invites you confirm your intention in relation to the fee increase. It is intended that the additional revenue should be retained by planning departments and that existing baseline and income assumptions will not be adjusted down as a result during this Parliament. This is an opportunity for all authorities to make improvements to their resourcing, leading to better services, improved performance, and greater capacity to deliver growth as set out in '*Fixing our broken housing market*'.

'*Fixing our broken housing market*' proposes a further increase of 20% for those authorities who are delivering the homes their communities need. This would also be on the understanding that the additional fee income generated will be invested exclusively in planning services. We will consult further on the detail of this proposal and the timing on it being brought forward.

For your authority to benefit from the higher planning application fees, we require your section 151 officers, under s230 of the Local Government Act 1972, to provide a commitment and submit information of the 2017/18 budget that demonstrates the additional fee income being spent on planning services. Annex A sets out details the information required.

Should your authority not wish to charge the increased fee, the existing fee structure will remain in place. Where authorities do accept, but do not comply with the assurances it has

provided, the Secretary of State will consider reducing the fee level for that authority back to the original fee level through a change in regulations.

Annex B includes a template for section 151 officers to sign and return. Replies should be sent to [planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March. It is important that a response is received from all local authorities; indicating whether or not the increased fee offer is to be accepted. You are also asked to confirm the correct legal name of your authority at Annex C, and return this with the template in Annex B. This will be used in the statutory instrument bringing forward the fee increase.

**I would be grateful if you could forward a copy of this letter to s151 officers and the officer with lead responsibility for planning services within your authority.**

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Gallagher

## **Annex A: Information section 151 officers should commit to providing**

Alongside the condition to spend the additional income generated on planning, we are asking section 151 officers to provide DCLG with certain information to demonstrate that the additional funding is being spent on development management.

We therefore ask that authorities submit the following information, on the basis that your budget has been set, and on the assumption that regulations are in place by July 2017.

- Estimate of final income from planning application fees in 2016/17.
  - Estimate of final expenditure on planning/development management in 2016/17.
  - Estimated income from planning application fees in 2017/18.
  - Estimated additional income generated from higher fees.
  - Estimated expenditure on planning/development management in 2017/18.

The letter in Annex B includes a table in which to provide this information.

**Annex B: Template letter for s151 officers to sign**

Dear Simon Gallagher,

In reply to your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 I am writing to certify that **[Insert name of authority]** has determined to:

Accept the proposed 20% increase in planning application fees.....

Reject the proposed 20% increase in planning application fees.....

If accepting:

I confirm that the amount raised through these higher fees will be spent entirely on planning functions.

I can also confirm that the full legal name for this authority to be used in regulations is

.....

Please also confirm this legal name in the table in Annex C, and return to [planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk) with this letter.

I submit the following information, as requested.

	2016/17	2017/18
Estimated expenditure on development management		
Estimated income generated from planning application fees		
Estimated additional income generated from higher planning fees	N/A	

Yours sincerely

**[S151 officer]**

### **Annex C: Correct Legal Name of Authority**

Please check the table below and confirm, in writing, the legal name for your authority. Please return this with the letter in Annex B to [planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningresources2@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Greater London	Greater London Authority	
City of London	City of London Corporation	
Worthing	Worthing Borough Council	
Mid Sussex	Mid Sussex District Council	
Horsham	Horsham District Council	
Crawley	Crawley Borough Council	
Chichester	Chichester District Council	
Arun	Arun District Council	
Adur	Adur District Council	
West Sussex	West Sussex County Council	
Wyre Forest	Wyre Forest District Council	
Wychavon	Wychavon District Council	
Worcester	Worcester City Council	
Redditch	Redditch Borough Council	
Malvern Hills	Malvern Hills District Council	
Bromsgrove	Bromsgrove District Council	
Worcestershire	Worcestershire County Council	
Warwick	Warwick District Council	
Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon District Council	
Rugby	Rugby Borough Council	
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	
North Warwickshire	North Warwickshire Borough Council	
Warwickshire	Warwickshire County Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Tamworth	Tamworth Borough Council	
Staffordshire Moorlands	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	
Stafford	Stafford Borough Council	
South Staffordshire	South Staffordshire Council	
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	
Lichfield	Lichfield District Council	
East Staffordshire	East Staffordshire Borough Council	
Cannock Chase	Cannock Chase District Council	
Staffordshire	Staffordshire County Council	
Woking	Woking Borough Council	
Waverley	Waverley Borough Council	
Tandridge	Tandridge District Council	
Surrey Heath	Surrey Heath Borough Council	
Spelthorne	Spelthorne Borough Council	
Runnymede	Runnymede Borough Council	
Reigate and Banstead	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	
Mole Valley	Mole Valley District Council	
Guildford	Guildford Borough Council	
Epsom and Ewell	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	
Elmbridge	Elmbridge Borough Council	
Surrey	Surrey County Council	
West Somerset	West Somerset District Council	
Taunton Deane	Taunton Deane Borough Council	
South Somerset	South Somerset District Council	
Sedgemoor	Sedgemoor District Council	
Mendip	Mendip District Council	
Somerset	Somerset County Council	
Waveney	Waveney District Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Suffolk Coastal	Suffolk Coastal District Council	
St Edmundsbury	St Edmundsbury Borough Council	
Mid Suffolk	Mid Suffolk District Council	
Ipswich	Ipswich Borough Council	
Forest Heath	Forest Heath District Council	
Babergh	Babergh District Council	
Suffolk	Suffolk County Council	
West Oxfordshire	West Oxfordshire District Council	
Vale of White Horse	Vale of White Horse District Council	
South Oxfordshire	South Oxfordshire District Council	
Oxford	Oxford City Council	
Cherwell	Cherwell District Council	
Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire County Council	
Selby	Selby District Council	
Scarborough	Scarborough Borough Council	
Ryedale	Ryedale District Council	
Richmondshire	Richmondshire District Council	
Harrogate	Harrogate Borough Council	
Hambleton	Hambleton District Council	
Craven	Craven District Council	
North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire County Council	
Rushcliffe	Rushcliffe Borough Council	
Newark and Sherwood	Newark and Sherwood District Council	
Mansfield	Mansfield District Council	
Gedling	Gedling Borough Council	
Broxtowe	Broxtowe Borough Council	
Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw District Council	
Ashfield	Ashfield District Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire County Council	
Wellingborough	Wellingborough Borough Council	
South Northamptonshire	South Northamptonshire Council	
Northampton	Northampton Borough Council	
Kettering	Kettering Borough Council	
East Northamptonshire	East Northamptonshire Council	
Daventry	Daventry District Council	
Corby	Corby Borough Council	
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire County Council	
South Norfolk	South Norfolk District Council	
Norwich	Norwich City Council	
North Norfolk	North Norfolk District Council	
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	
Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	
Broadland	Broadland District Council	
Breckland	Breckland District Council	
Norfolk	Norfolk County Council	
West Lindsey	West Lindsey District Council	
South Kesteven	South Kesteven District Council	
South Holland	South Holland District Council	
North Kesteven	North Kesteven District Council	
City of Lincoln	City of Lincoln Council	
East Lindsey	East Lindsey District Council	
Boston	Boston Borough Council	
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire County Council	
Oadby and Wigston	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	



Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
North West Leicestershire	North West Leicestershire District Council	
Melton	Melton Borough Council	
Hinckley and Bosworth	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	
Harborough	Harborough District Council	
Charnwood	Charnwood Borough Council	
Blaby	Blaby District Council	
Leicestershire	Leicestershire County Council	
Wyre	Wyre Borough Council	
West Lancashire	West Lancashire Borough Council	
South Ribble	South Ribble Borough Council	
Rossendale	Rossendale Borough Council	
Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley Borough Council	
Preston	Preston City Council	
Pendle	Pendle Borough Council	
Lancaster	Lancaster City Council	
Hyndburn	Hyndburn Borough Council	
Fylde	Fylde Borough Council	
Chorley	Chorley Borough Council	
Burnley	Burnley Borough Council	
Lancashire	Lancashire County Council	
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	
Tonbridge and Malling	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	
Thanet	Thanet District Council	
Swale	Swale Borough Council	
Shepway	Shepway District Council	
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks District Council	
Maidstone	Maidstone Borough Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Gravesham	Gravesham Borough Council	
Dover	Dover District Council	
Dartford	Dartford Borough Council	
Canterbury	Canterbury City Council	
Ashford	Ashford Borough Council	
Kent	Kent County Council	
Welwyn Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	
Watford	Watford Borough Council	
Three Rivers	Three Rivers District Council	
Stevenage	Stevenage Borough Council	
St Albans	St Albans City and District Council	
North Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire District Council	
Hertsmere	Hertsmere Borough Council	
East Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire District Council	
Dacorum	Dacorum Borough Council	
Broxbourne	Broxbourne Borough Council	
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire County Council	
Winchester	Winchester City Council	
Test Valley	Test Valley Borough Council	
Rushmoor	Rushmoor Borough Council	
New Forest	New Forest District Council	
Havant	Havant Borough Council	
Hart	Hart District Council	
Gosport	Gosport Borough Council	
Fareham	Fareham Borough Council	
Eastleigh	Eastleigh Borough Council	
East Hampshire	East Hampshire District Council	
Basingstoke and Deane	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Hampshire	Hampshire County Council	
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Stroud	Stroud District Council	
Gloucester	Gloucester City Council	
Forest of Dean	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cotswold	Cotswold District Council	
Cheltenham	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire County Council	
Westminster	City of Westminster	
Wandsworth	London Borough of Wandsworth	
Waltham Forest	London Borough of Waltham Forest	
Tower Hamlets	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	
Southwark	London Borough of Southwark	
Sutton	London Borough of Sutton	
Richmond upon Thames	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	
Redbridge	London Borough of Redbridge	
Newham	London Borough of Newham	
Merton	London Borough of Merton	
Lewisham	London Borough of Lewisham	
Lambeth	London Borough of Lambeth	
Kingston upon Thames	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	
Kensington and Chelsea	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	
Islington	London Borough of Islington	
Haringey	London Borough of Haringey	
Harrow	London Borough of Harrow	
Hounslow	London Borough of Hounslow	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Hammersmith and Fulham	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	
Hillingdon	London Borough of Hillingdon	
Hackney	London Borough of Hackney	
Havering	London Borough of Havering	
Greenwich	Royal Borough of Greenwich	
Enfield	London Borough of Enfield	
Ealing	London Borough of Ealing	
Croydon	London Borough of Croydon	
Camden	London Borough of Camden	
Bromley	London Borough of Bromley	
Barnet	London Borough of Barnet	
Bexley	London Borough of Bexley	
Brent	London Borough of Brent	
Barking and Dagenham	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	
Wealden	Wealden District Council	
Rother	Rother District Council	
Lewes	Lewes District Council	
Hastings	Hastings Borough Council	
Eastbourne	Eastbourne Borough Council	
East Sussex	East Sussex County Council	
Uttlesford	Uttlesford District Council	
Tendring	Tendring District Council	
Rochford	Rochford District Council	
Maldon	Maldon District Council	
Harlow	Harlow District Council	
Epping Forest	Epping Forest District Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Colchester	Colchester Borough Council	
Chelmsford	Chelmsford City Council	
Castle Point	Castle Point Borough Council	
Brentwood	Brentwood Borough Council	
Braintree	Braintree District Council	
Basildon	Basildon Borough Council	
Essex	Essex County Council	
Weymouth and Portland	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	
West Dorset	West Dorset District Council	
Purbeck	Purbeck District Council	
North Dorset	North Dorset District Council	
East Dorset	East Dorset District Council	
Christchurch	Christchurch Borough Council	
Dorset	Dorset County Council	
West Devon	West Devon Borough Council	
Torridge	Torridge District Council	
Teignbridge	Teignbridge District Council	
South Hams	South Hams District Council	
North Devon	North Devon District Council	
Mid Devon	Mid Devon District Council	
Exeter	Exeter City Council	
East Devon	East Devon District Council	
Devon	Devon County Council	
South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire District Council	
North East Derbyshire	North East Derbyshire District Council	
High Peak	High Peak Borough Council	
Erewash	Erewash Borough Council	
Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire Dales District Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Chesterfield	Chesterfield Borough Council	
Bolsover	Bolsover District Council	
Amber Valley	Amber Valley Borough Council	
Derbyshire	Derbyshire County Council	
Derby	Derby City Council	
South Lakeland	South Lakeland District Council	
Eden	Eden District Council	
Copeland	Copeland Borough Council	
Carlisle	Carlisle City Council	
Barrow-in-Furness	Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	
Allerdale	Allerdale Borough Council	
Cumbria	Cumbria County Council	
South Cambridgeshire	South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Huntingdonshire	Huntingdonshire District Council	
Fenland	Fenland District Council	
East Cambridgeshire	East Cambridgeshire District Council	
Cambridge	Cambridge City Council	
Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire County Council	
Wycombe	Wycombe District Council	
South Bucks	South Bucks District Council	
Chiltern	Chiltern District Council	
Aylesbury Vale	Aylesbury Vale District Council	
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire County Council	
York	City of York Council	
Warrington	Warrington Borough Council	
Wirral	Wirral Borough Council	
Wokingham	Wokingham Borough Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Windsor and Maidenhead	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	
Wolverhampton	City of Wolverhampton Council	
Walsall	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	
Wakefield	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	
Wiltshire	Wiltshire Council	
Wigan	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	
West Berkshire	West Berkshire Council	
Trafford	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	
Torbay	Torbay Council	
Thurrock	Thurrock Council	
Telford and Wrekin	Telford & Wrekin Council	
Tameside	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	
Swindon	Swindon Borough Council	
South Tyneside	South Tyneside Council	
Stockton-on-Tees	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	
Southampton	Southampton City Council	
Stoke-on-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	
Solihull	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	
Sunderland	Sunderland City Council	
Slough	Slough Borough Council	
Salford	Salford City Council	
Stockport	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	
Shropshire	Shropshire Council	
St. Helens	St Helens Council	
Sheffield	Sheffield City Council	
South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Sefton	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	
Sandwell	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	
Rutland	Rutland County Council	
Rotherham	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	
Reading	Reading Borough Council	
Rochdale	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	
Redcar and Cleveland	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	
Peterborough	Peterborough City Council	
Portsmouth	Portsmouth City Council	
Poole	Borough of Poole	
Plymouth	Plymouth City Council	
Oldham	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	
North Tyneside	North Tyneside Council	
North Somerset	North Somerset Council	
North Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire Council	
Nottingham	Nottingham City Council	
Newcastle upon Tyne	Newcastle City Council	
North East Lincolnshire	North East Lincolnshire Council	
Northumberland	Northumberland County Council	
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Council	
Medway	Medway Council	
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough Borough Council	
Manchester	Manchester City Council	
Luton	Luton Borough Council	
Liverpool	Liverpool City Council	
Leeds	Leeds City Council	
Leicester	Leicester City Council	
Knowsley	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	



Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Kirklees	Kirklees Council	
Kingston upon Hull	Hull City Council	
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Council	
Isles of Scilly	Council of the Isles of Scilly	
Hartlepool	Hartlepool Borough Council	
Herefordshire	Herefordshire Council	
Halton	Halton Borough Council	
Gateshead	Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	
East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	
County Durham	Durham County Council	
Dudley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Doncaster	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	
Darlington	Darlington Borough Council	
Coventry	Coventry City Council	
Cornwall	Cornwall Council	
Calderdale	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire West and Chester Council	
Cheshire East	Cheshire East Council	
Central Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Bury	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	
City of Bristol	Bristol City Council	
Bradford	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	
Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest Council	
Blackpool	Blackpool Borough Council	
Bolton	Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	
Barnsley	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	

Name	Official Name	Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove City Council	
Bournemouth	Bournemouth Borough Council	
Birmingham	Birmingham City Council	
Bedford	Bedford Borough Council	
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	
Bath and North East Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset Council	
The Broads	Broads Authority	
Dartmoor National Park	Dartmoor National Park Authority	
Exmoor National Park	Exmoor National Park Authority	
Lake District National Park	Lake District National Park Authority	
New Forest National Park	New Forest National Park Authority	
North York Moors National Park	North York Moors National Park Authority	
Northumberland National Park	Northumberland National Park Authority	
Peak District National Park	Peak District National Park Authority	
South Downs National Park	South Downs National Park Authority	
Yorkshire Dales National Park	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation	Ebbsfleet Development Corporation	
London Legacy Development Corporation	London Legacy Development Corporation	

Name	Official Name	<b>Please confirm correct Legal Name of authority</b>
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	