

12th May 2025

Preferred Option Consultation,
Development Strategy Team,
Town Hall,
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Localplan@rugby.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Preferred Option Consultation response – Infrastructure Contributions for Police Services

I write in response to the preferred options consultation document (March 2025) published by Rugby Borough Council. I wish to raise the importance of ensuring that future development makes appropriate and proportionate infrastructure contributions to support policing services, delivered by Warwickshire Police.

Impact of development on Warwickshire Police

The proposed allocation of 10,500 new homes (in addition to the 2,300 homes already included within the existing housing commitments of the existing plan, and sites already under construction or with planning permission) and associated employment land across Rugby, particularly at Southwest Rugby, Ansty and Coombefields, and Long Lawford, will result in a significant increase in the demand placed on local policing services. Experience from similar areas has shown that population growth leads directly to:

- Increased emergency and non-emergency calls for service
- A greater need for visible neighbourhood policing
- Rising pressure on safeguarding, investigative and public protection teams

Warwickshire Police will require additional capital investment to maintain safe and effective policing in the face of these pressures. These include:

- New provision, or growth of, existing police accommodation
- Additional officer recruitment and equipment
- Additional vehicles
- Investment in mobile and digital technologies

Legal and planning precedent for Police Contributions

There is well established precedent for securing developer contributions toward policing infrastructure via planning obligations. Specifically, Planning Inspectors have upheld such contributions as both necessary and proportionate under the NPPF and Regulation 122(2) of the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations 2010.

Relevant, local appeal decisions include:

Rugby Borough Council – Appeal Reference APP/E3715/W/21/3268629

Land North of Coventry Road, Long Lawford, CV23 9BT – In this decision, the Inspector accepted Warwickshire Police’s request for a financial contribution, noting that *“Contributions would also go towards the staffing, equipment, premises and vehicle requirements of Warwickshire Police and improvements to the library facilities at Rugby Library. The contributions would address the impacts of the occupiers relying on these services. Both contributions are based on established methodologies within the borough and reflect the number of new occupiers. They meet the tests for planning obligations.”*

Rugby Borough Council – Appeal Reference APP/E3715/W/16/3147448

Land at Ashlawn Road West, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 5RZ – In this decision the Inspector acknowledged the request for contributions from Warwickshire Police (WP) stating that *“WP have provided documents to demonstrate CIL compliance. I have not received any evidence to demonstrate that the planning obligations would contravene any of the above Regulations.”*

Request for Policy Inclusion

I respectfully request that the Council:

- Acknowledge policing infrastructure explicitly as a category of community infrastructure in the Local Plan.
- Engage with The Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire and Warwickshire Police to determine the capital requirements linked to housing and employment allocations.
- Secure contributions via S106 or CIL mechanisms to ensure the delivery of necessary Police infrastructure (e.g vehicles, equipment, and facilities) proportionate to the proposed growth.

Such inclusion is consistent with both the NPPF and recent planning appeal decisions within Rugby and the wider Warwickshire County. It will help to ensure that new communities are safe, well served and that Warwickshire Police is adequately equipped to meet growing demand.

Thank you for considering this submission. I would be pleased to provide further information, and references should this be helpful in your process.

Yours sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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