

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
**Report of:** Head of Development  
**Subject/Title:** Section 106 Agreements  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Rachel Bailey

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out to Members in the form of a project plan how the Council aims to progress expending the balance of S106 monies currently held. The report also updates Members of improvements implemented and proposed with regards to managing S106 Monies.

### 2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee notes the report

### 3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 All

### 4.0 Local Ward Members

- 4.1 All

### 5.0 Background and Introduction

- 5.1 At its previous meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 the Committee gave its feedback to a report on the current arrangements for managing Section 106 monies. In response to feedback the following changes have been implemented:
- Improvements to the spreadsheet
  - Improvements for liaising with councillors
  - A project plan for progressing & programming spend of the S106 monies currently held

## **6.0 Improvements to the spreadsheet**

- 6.1 In response to concerns over how the spreadsheet was presented at the last committee, work has been undertaken and will continue to improve this. Presented at Appendix 1 is a spreadsheet relating to all S106 monies held which are time limited only. Members will note that a column has been included so that the spreadsheet can be filtered by ward for ease of reference. This will enable officers to respond to enquiries relating to what monies are available for spend by ward and/or parish or for members to interrogate the information more easily.
- 6.2 A column identifying what the contribution can be used for has been incorporated and fully populated; the information for this has been taken directly from the S106 agreement where possible.
- 6.3 A scheme manager has been allocated to each sum of money so that Members have an officer allocated to each pot of money to liaise with regards to spend. This is now a comprehensive and accurate record of all S106 monies which are time limited.
- 6.4 A column recording the current status of each pot of time limited monies has been added to inform members of the programmed timescale for spend.
- 6.5 Work is underway to fully populate the entire spreadsheet. It is proposed that this work will be complete by the end June 2012.

## **7.0 Liaising with Councillors**

- 7.1 On receipt of monies relating to a particularly S106 Agreement a memo is circulated to 'cheque receipting', 'finance' and the 'service area responsible for spend'. The S106 Officer now includes the ward councillor on this memo so that they are alerted to the fact that the money has been received by the Council and a contact name/scheme manager to liaise with for spend. This improvement was implemented on receipt of a cheque for £42,000.000 relating to land Off Marthall Lane, Marthall, the ward Councillor for Chelford was informed and there has been a further suggestion that this is also circulated to the relevant Parish or Town Council.
- 7.2 It is proposed that bi-annual reports with regards to income and expenditure are undertaken and reported to Members so that monies received, projects delivered and performance can be monitored by the Committee. It is also proposed to extend the report process to the Strategic Planning Board including a list and short summary of all S106 agreements completed during the relevant time period as it is important to maintain a level of transparency and openness to a wider forum.

## **8.0 Project plan to programme expenditure of S106 monies**

- 8.1 Presented at Appendix 2 is a suggested project plan to detail programmed spending of S106 monies held by the Council.
- 8.2 The scale of funding available from S106 Agreements is significant. It should be noted that the service areas to which the sum relates e.g. Highways, Green spaces, Housing, Education have overall responsibility and control of expenditure and more often than not this includes partnership working with Town and Parish Councils and individual community groups.
- 8.3 Members will note that the plan presented at Appendix 2 is not exhaustive. It is accepted that further work needs to be undertaken to formalise the approach to how the Council manages and monitors income and expenditure.

The background papers including the individual S106 Agreements relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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