

All Party Member and Officer Working Group on 'Developer Contributions'

6 Developer Contributions Post

Developer Contributions Officer – Outline Post

Objective

The strategic objective for the 'Developer Contributions Officer' is to implement the policy of "optimizing Developer Contributions and their distribution, tied into the overall priority of the Council", in a timely fashion.

The key objective of the post is to provide and manage a process that will achieve "unified advice" from officers for Councillors and for external people seeking Council advice, during the pre-application stage, while the application is being progressed, and if/when a Section 106 Agreement is secured.

The Developer Contributions Officer will also liaise with officers who will be monitoring receipts or otherwise managing contributions (ie, post-decision monitoring).

The Developer Contributions Officer will chair a regular forum that receives monitoring reports on contributions that should have been received, and the delivery of outcomes.

Overall Aims

It is proposed that the overall aims for the Developer Contributions Officer should be:

- To undertake a co-ordination role for Planning, prior to an Application Report being written, and thus provide the basis for 'unified officer advice' on Planning Obligations.
- To implement existing Council policies and procedures for dealing with developer contributions as adopted in the Local Plan.
- To provide technical support from a range of professional backgrounds on 'developer contributions' issues
- To provide a 'clearing house' for emerging/new planning applications on whether developer contributions can be sought
- To provide a regular project-management approach to existing and up-coming planning permissions that have 'developer contribution' compliance elements
- To provide support, advice and 'early warning' on handling negotiations to maximize benefit to Leicester communities from developer investments in the City
- To reconcile LCC departmental differences on policy implementation on specific developments so that a 'unified voice' can be presented during negotiations; and where department differences do not appear to be reconcilable, refer on the issue to the appropriate Service Director (Planning++).
- To provide other support/project management services as needed, to achieve a 'one voice for Leicester' position, on Section 106/'developer contributions'.
- To consider opportunities for Service areas to improve their joint work arrangements for 'pooling' contributions