

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Director of Environment

TO: West/Central Area Committee

25/4/2013

WARDS: Castle, Market, Newham

DEVOLVED DECISION-MAKING AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS: PROGRESS ON WEST/CENTRAL AREA PRIORITY PROJECTS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Area Committees now have devolved decision-making powers over how certain types of developer (S106) contributions are used. In the first prioritisation round, 16 priority projects (worth over £550,000 in total) were identified across all four area committees.
- 1.2 In this Area, residents and community groups were consulted at a workshop last September on local needs and ideas for new/improved local facilities to help address the impact of development. Having considered the range of options that were both eligible for developer contributions and deliverable in the short-term (by March 2014), last November's Area Committee identified three priority projects, plus an additional community facilities grant in the first round. These are:
 - ▶ Benches in parks & open spaces in the West/Central Area
 - ▶ Improving access to Midsummer Common Community Orchard
 - ▶ Improvements to Histon Road Recreation Ground entrances
 - ▶ Community meeting space at Centre 33, Clarendon Street.
- 1.3 Section 3 of this report provides a short update on the progress in finalising and delivering the Area's priority projects, in line with a commitment to give progress reports to each of the area committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the steps being taken to deliver the Area Committee's priority projects funded by devolved developer contributions.

3. WEST/CENTRAL AREA PRIORITIES FOR DEVOLVED DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FUNDING

	Description	Ward	S106 funding	Consult	Project Appraisal	Delivery start	Expected completion
a.	Benches in Parks & Open Spaces	Area-wide	£30,000	From May '13	July '13	Sept '13	March14
b.	Access Improvements to Midsummer Common Community Orchard	Market	£20,000	June '13	July '13	October '13	March14
c.	Improvements to Histon Road Rec Ground entrances	Castle	£50,000	From June '13	August '13	October '13	March14
d.	Community Meeting space at Centre 33	Market	£12,000 (grant)	N/A	Approved: Jan '13	April '13: on-going	March14

- i. More details on consultation arrangements for priorities [a] – [c] will be provided to the Area Committee and will be publicised via the Developer Contributions web page (www.cambridge.gov.uk/s106). Area workshop participants, local community groups and local councillors will also be notified of consultations by email (where up-to-date addresses are known). The local primary schools will be invited to take part in design of the improved Histon Road Rec. entrances.
- ii. In line with the Council's Constitution, project appraisals for Area Committee devolved priorities under £75,000 will be considered by the Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes.
- iii. As the proposed access improvements to the Midsummer Common Community Orchard are worked up in detail, officers will take stock of whether this may require an application to the Secretary of State for approval of works on Commons. Timings for the development of the improved entrances at Histon Road Rec Ground will also depend on the appointment of an artist and his/her approach to engaging the community and delivering the project brief. Officers will keep the Area Committee updated on whether this might affect the current expected completion dates.

4. WIDER ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Beyond the Area-specific first round priorities, the Executive Councillors last January approved 10 strategic projects (benefiting more than one area of the city) totalling over £900,000 of city-wide developer contributions funding. This included the following projects in the West/Central Area, for delivery in the short-to-medium term:
- ▶ Extension of Paradise local nature reserve
 - ▶ Drainage of Jesus Green
 - ▶ Public art to mark 150 years of Football Association rules and the 400th anniversary of the city's acquisition of Parker's Piece.

In addition, the development of the Rouse Ball Pavilion on Jesus Green was identified as a longer-term strategic project priority. An update on the progress in taking forward these projects will be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in June.

- 4.2 The second prioritisation round over the use of devolved and city-wide developer contributions (drawing on ideas raised at last autumn's area workshops) will take place in the second half of 2013.
- a. In preparation, the proposed process (including arrangements for further inputs from residents and community groups) will be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in June.
 - b. Once the process has been finalised and once further inputs from residents and community groups have been received and assessed, it is currently envisaged that project options for Members to choose from will be reported to the West/Central Area Committee in late autumn 2013.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following papers on devolved decision-making and developer contributions were used in the preparation of this report.

- Report to West/Central Area Committee, 1/11/2012
- Report to Community Services Scrutiny Committee, 17/1/13

This and other background information can be found on the Council's Developer Contributions web page (www.cambridge.gov.uk/S106).

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report, please contact:

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