

Cumbria County Council

*Section 106
Agreements*

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Contents

- Introduction
- Education and Planning Context
- Implementation
- Outcome
- Lessons learnt
- Questions and answers

Introduction

- Owen David – School Organisation Planning Officer
- Michael Barry – Senior Planning Officer
- Implemented a Planning Obligation Policy

Education Context

- Increasing budget cuts
- Government funding reducing
- Rising population in urban areas, declining population in rural areas
- Previously never sought S106 contributions for education

Planning Context

- Two tier authority system
- County Council is not the planning authority
- Is a consultee and infrastructure provider
- Ensure effects of development mitigated

Implementation

- S106 Agreements – mitigation tool
- Corporate County Council Planning Obligations Policy – includes education
- Establishes approach to securing planning obligations
- Clear position for development industry and planning authorities
- Project team approach

Outcome

- In the last 2 and half years contributions worth over £6.5 million towards education have been gained
- Greater acceptance from developers on evidence and approach
- Closer working relationship with district councils

Lessons learnt

- Use full corporate resources, legal, finance
- Communicate with developers and districts, early engagement and often
- Up-to-date and robust evidence
- Infrastructure planning is important

Next Steps

- Developer challenge has shifted focus
- Focus is now on cost of delivering places
- Seeking a cost for a Cumbrian 'baseline' school
- Will sit alongside Planning Obligation policy

Questions?

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/spatialplanning/contributions/Policy.asp>



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