

**Date:** Full Council  
**12<sup>th</sup> December 2006**  
**Title:** Saffron Walden Pig Market

Agenda Item

**12**

**Author:** Philip O'Dell, Executive Manager (Finance and Asset Strategy) 01799 510670,  
 Michael Perry, Executive Manager (Corporate Governance) 01799-510416

**Summary**

1. This report responds to a request at the last meeting of the Council to clarify the financial arrangements for the former pig market site.

**Recommendation**

2. The Council is recommended to confirm that the current arrangements for the administration of the Saffron Walden Pig Market's income should remain unchanged.

**Background Papers Background Papers**

3. Pig Market accounts and legal records. Uttlesford District Council Budget Book 2006/07.

**Impact**

Communication/Consultation	No direct implications
Community Safety	No direct implications
Equalities	No direct implications
Finance	The administration of the Pig Market's resources is the subject of this report
Human Rights	No direct implications
Legal implications	The current arrangements regarding the Pig Market comply with all legal requirements
Ward-specific impacts	No direct implications for specific wards but this report looks at Area Panel dimensions of this issue
Workforce/Workplace	No direct implications

## Operations Committee

### Situation

4. The Saffron Walden Pig Market is a registered charity. Its registered address is the Council's offices at London Road, Saffron Walden. The objectives of the charity are 'any charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Saffron Walden and the neighbourhood thereof'. The District Council are the Trustees of the charity and the charity is administered in accordance with guidance from the Charity Commission.
5. The charity owns a proportion of the land occupied by the public pay and display car park at Fairycroft Road, which is maintained by and otherwise belongs to the District Council. The charity receives 66/303 of the net income after costs. This is the proportion of the car park that relates to the former pig market. The charity distributes the amount it receives (£35,912 in 2005/06) to charities in the Saffron Walden area. There is no separate payment arrangement (i.e. no bank account) by which this is done. The Council's own accounting system makes a transfer from the Environment Committee's car park income budget into the Community Committee's grants budget and the sum involved is used to help fund the appropriate charities. The transfer of funds is clearly shown in the Council's Budget Book (page 51 in the 2006/07 book).
6. The charity has no investments or reserves but it does receive an annual valuation of its land which at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 was £32,780.
7. For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 the District Council, with knowledge of the sum received from the pig market to support its grants budget, awarded £64,000 to the Saffron Walden Citizens Advice Bureaux and a further £5,050 to the Volunteer Bureau. Other grants within the Council's grants budget, such as the £5,000 awarded to the Saffron Walden Cinema can also be considered to be a furtherance of the Pig Market's charitable objectives.
8. The Council's Chief Financial Officer certifies the accounts for the Pig Market and the Council's external auditors, the Audit Commission, audit them. The Audit Commission check every year that the accounts and administration of the charity are in accordance with the original trust deed. They have always confirmed that this is the case.

### Implications of changing the current arrangements

9. The move towards devolving budgets to Area Panels has raised a question as to whether the Pig Market element of the Council's grants budget should be allocated through that mechanism. With the grants awarded to Saffron Walden charities currently well exceeding the Pig Market share of the grants budget this would have no practical consequences should the actual funding to individual organisations stay unchanged. If the North Area Panel used the Pig

Operations Committee

Market funding to support alternative organisations to those currently supported the District Council may feel the need to increase its grants budget to compensate the current recipients, or else cut grants to other organisations. Although this is ultimately a member decision, officers cannot see that there is a problem and a need to change when all of the Pig Market money and a large element of the Council’s own grants money are currently allocated to Saffron Walden charities.

**Risk Analysis**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
That over time the amount that the Pig Market raise in income is not matched by an allocation to Saffron Walden charities through the current mechanism.	Low	High	Continual monitoring and taking action at the time that this situation seemed likely to arise.