

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

20 December 2012

Interim Report of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the progress made by the CIL Task Group.

Background

2. The CIL is a proposed new charge that local authorities can choose to impose on development in their area. It will contribute towards bridging the funding gap between the total cost of infrastructure necessary to deliver new development and the amount of funding available from other sources. From April 2014, Section 106 obligations will be restricted to site specific infrastructure and the Council will be restricted in its ability to pool infrastructure contributions from the new development through the existing mechanism of Section 106 agreements.
3. Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team identified the introduction of CIL as one of its corporate priorities and were supported by the O & S Management Committee, who included it in the overall O & S work programme under the Environment Select Committee (ESC). The CIL Task Group was established by the ESC, endorsed by the O & S Management Committee and held its inaugural meeting on 24 September 2012.

Progress to date

4. The CIL regulations require the Council to undertake a two stage consultation process in relation to the CIL Preliminary Charging Schedule. In readiness for the first round of public consultation a range of consultation documents had been prepared. The Task Group reviewed all the consultation documents prior to the launch of the first six week consultation on 1 October 2012 and their comments were fed back to the service.
5. The Task Group was keen to hear from a range of stakeholders on their views about the CIL charging schedule and any likely impact they saw on their businesses or any wider implications.
6. The Task Group has taken evidence from five stakeholders in person and has one written submission. The Task Group anticipates taking more evidence in the New Year to ensure that it hears from as wide range a range of stakeholders as possible.

7. The Task Group has learnt that the Government is seeking the views of local authorities on its guidance in relation to CIL and that the planned guidance may be revised. The Government has indicated that the guidance will be published by the end of 2012.
8. The Task Group considers it prudent to wait for the publication of the Government's guidance before proceeding with any further interviews.

Proposal

9. It is recommended that:
 - (i) The Committee agree to the work of the Task Group being held in abeyance, until the latest Government guidance on CIL is published.

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