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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Community Infrastructure Levy - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule**

Thank you for inviting Sport England to comment on the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule.

Sport England is the Government agency responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives. Maximising the investment into sport and recreation through the land use planning system is one of our priorities. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.

The New Sport England Strategy 2012-17 sets a challenge to:

- See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities

Sport England has considered the CIL draft charging schedule in the light of Sport England's 'Planning for Sport & Active Recreation: Objectives & Opportunities' (Interim Statement 2005). The overall thrust of the statement is that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport is necessary in order to ensure the sport and recreational needs of local communities are met.

#### **1. OBJECTION – Local Plan & CIL Evidence Base**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires each local planning authority to produce a Local Plan for its area. Local Plans should address the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change. Local Plans

should be based on an adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence base. In addition, para 73 of the NPPF requires that:

*“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.”*

Paragraph 175 of the NPPF states:

*“Where practical, Community Infrastructure Levy charges should be worked up and tested alongside the Local Plan.”*

Sport England advocates that new developments should contribute to the sporting and recreational needs of the locality made necessary by their development. However, we are not aware of a robust and up-to-date evidence base for playing fields, sport and recreation (including built sports facilities) for Winchester. For example, the Council’s Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study was undertaken in 2007/8 and requires an update.

It is not clear how this lack of an up-to-date evidence base has been taken into account to develop the CIL preliminary draft charging schedule. For example, Sport England is aware that the Council is currently considering the future of its swimming pools but this has not been covered in the Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

## **2. SUPPORT – Planning Obligations/Community Infrastructure Levy for Sport**

Sport England supports the use of planning obligations/community infrastructure levy as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development. This does need to be based on a robust evidence base, as required by the NPPF (see above). This includes indoor sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, etc) as well as playing fields and multi use games courts.

All new dwellings in Winchester in the local plan period should provide for new or enhance existing sport and recreation facilities to help create opportunities for physical activity whilst having a major positive impact on health and mental wellbeing.

Planning, leisure and sports officers should:

- Assess existing information on the need and demand for sport and recreation provision in terms of how it will assist in creating a CIL charging schedule
- Look at the potential for adapting any existing standard charge approaches to sport, currently used for section 106 agreements, into CIL charges
- Ensure liaison between sport and planning officers results in built sports facilities, as well as outdoor facilities such as playing fields, being included in CIL charging schedules
- Consider how lists of appropriate projects, in areas affected by development, can be established and prioritised for implementation

For information regarding planning obligations for sport:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_\\_planning/planning\\_tools\\_and\\_guidance/planning\\_contributions.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_contributions.aspx)

For more information re: sport and CIL:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_\\_planning/planning\\_tools\\_and\\_guidance/planning\\_contributions\\_-\\_what/community\\_infrastructure\\_levy.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_contributions_-_what/community_infrastructure_levy.aspx)

I hope that this response is helpful to the Council in determining how to take the CIL preliminary draft charging schedule forward. If you would like to discuss any of the above comments or if we can be of any further assistance in the development of future local plan documents, please do not hesitate to contact me via [planning.south@sportengland.org](mailto:planning.south@sportengland.org) .

Yours sincerely

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