

Thu 28/07/2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England on North Dorset's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule.

'Sporting and recreation facilities' are included within the definition of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) infrastructure in the 2008 Planning Act (section 216) which means money raised can be used to fund new or enhanced sports facilities. Sport England therefore recommends that Sports development be added to the list of developments exempt from paying CIL on page 4 of the draft charging schedule. In order to provide an informed response Sport England has considered the following documents which will be referenced in the response:

- Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan November 2014
- Draft Regulation 123 List

The Draft Regulation 123 List sets out what CIL money will be spent on. It advises that CIL will be used to fund: *sport, recreation and leisure facilities (formal and informal, including pitches and accommodation, non-pitch facilities, leisure centres and swimming pools)*. This is considered very general.

Paragraph 73 of the NPPF requires Local Authorities to undertake a robust and up to date assessment of need for outdoor and indoor sports provision and to use the assessment to identify specific need, deficiencies/surpluses in both quantity and quality within their area and therefore understand what provision is required. Sport England is aware that the Council does not have in place an up-to-date and robust Playing Pitch Strategy and/or Sports Facilities Strategy which sets out priorities and actions in relation to pitches and sports facilities across North Dorset in line with Sport England's guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-guidance/>. It is essential that the evidence of sporting needs and priorities must be fed into both the IDP, and the CIL Reg 123 list. It is not clear how the evidence base has been used to inform the CIL Reg 123 List.

The IDP identifies a number of sites for the delivery of sports projects but the exact provision should be stated underpinned by a robust need and evidence base – something Sport England consider the Council do not have at this time.

In order to increase likelihood of the levy being spent on sport, the Reg 123 list should detail specific projects for sport. Rather than the Reg 123 list having a generic section relating to the provision of sport, recreation and leisure facilities as currently set out. Sport England would recommend that the Council list the sports projects in order of priority and in some detail. This will increase the likelihood of delivery. Unless the Council identify specific projects on the 123 list, it may be more effective for sporting contributions to be sought through planning obligations however this is only in the case where it can be linked to a strategic housing development.

The Council should be aware that after April 2015, no more than five planning obligations can be used to pool funds for any one piece of infrastructure/project. Therefore the Council will need to think quite strategically and plan effectively for sports infrastructure delivery in the future linking development sites with specific projects to meet identified sporting needs. This will enable the Council to take a proactive approach and ensure the most effective use of planning obligations and CIL together to help deliver this/meet the needs of the population.

I hope that this response is helpful to the Council in determining how to take the CIL 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).

Kind regards

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