

**From:** Stobart, John (NE) [REDACTED]

**Sent:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Ed Gerry

**Subject:** RE: North Dorset District Council - Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule

Dear Mr Gerry

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the NDDC CIL Draft Charging Levy.

Natural England has the comments on draft 123 list:

- We fully support the inclusion of the “Open space provision, amenity and environmental improvements”, along with the specific reference to provision for nature reserves and Dorset Heathland mitigation projects. We would, however, recommend that a specific reference is also made to the delivery of the Gillingham Royal Forest proposals, as set out in the adopted local plan. In particular the aims set out in local plan paragraph 8.6 to, “enhance the landscape through additional woodland planting and promote low-key countryside recreation and tourism activities”.
- Natural England recommends that specific mention is also made to climate change adaptation measures (i.e. measures designed to reduce the effects of climate change) and measures for the establishment of coherent ecological networks (as required by National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 109 within the, “Open space provision, amenity and environmental improvements” category. For example, green infrastructure and resilient ecological networks play an important role in aiding climate change adaptation, while tree planting can help to moderate heat island effects, particularly along water courses and urban areas.
- Natural England notes and welcomes the inclusion of the, “Surface water, flood risk and water quality mitigation works” category and the specific mention of the Poole Harbour nitrogen reduction measures. The category should also usefully include a specific mention of measures to reduce flood risk through river catchment management (i.e. measures to reduce flood risk through changes to rural land management).

Comments on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- The “Land drainage (including rivers and flooding)” section should include provision for measures to reduce flood risk through changes to rural management within the River Stour catchment (i.e. the promotion of a whole-catchment approach to flood alleviation).
- We welcome the inclusion of projects under Nature Reserves, Natural/semi-natural greenspace, Green Corridors and Heathland Mitigation Projects under the environment section. The category “Green Corridor” might usefully be amended to “Green corridor / ecological networks” to reflect the requirement of NPPF paragraph 109 for “establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”. Similarly mention of establishing coherent ecological networks should be made under the “Infrastructure proposed / needed” section.
- Natural England recommends that the Gillingham Royal Forest Project (see above) is also included within the Environmental section.

I can confirm Natural England has no further comment on the Draft Charging Schedule, or other supporting documents.

For clarification of any points raised please contact John Stobart on [REDACTED]. For any new consultations or issues, please contact [REDACTED]

Regards

John Stobart



Please note that my working days are now Monday to Thursday

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