

11 November 2011

Our ref: 34798



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Dear Sandra

Planning consultation: Preliminary draft charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy
Location: Greater Norwich

Thank you for your consultation, dated 28 September 2011, which we received on 3 October 2011.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

While we have no specific comments to raise in relation to the content of the charging schedule, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the important role that the CIL should play in funding green infrastructure in the Greater Norwich area. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Joint Core Strategy concluded that significant additional green infrastructure is required in order to avoid an adverse effect on European designated sites, which are already under demonstrable pressure from recreational disturbance. The provision of an additional 37,500 homes will only exacerbate this pressure. Natural England's *Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Norfolk* has drawn attention to the current deficit in green infrastructure provision across the county, and there is a need to serve the new communities as well as improve provision for existing communities. The Community Infrastructure Levy offers an opportunity to secure funding for green infrastructure in advance of development, and – given the identified paucity of provision – it is crucial that this funding is robustly ring-fenced. The monies raised can be shared between the costs of creating new greenspaces, and securing their long term management, and managing existing green infrastructure. Work has been undertaken by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership to analyse the use of existing green infrastructure assets by visitors and local residents, and this will form part of the evidence base for identifying the exact location and typology of new greenspaces.

Thank you for consulting with Natural England. We look forward to continued involvement in the planning process for green infrastructure in Greater Norwich.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Ward".

Helen Ward
Land Use Operations