



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION

Sandra Eastaugh
Greater Norwich Development
Partnership
POBox 3466
Norwich
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Our Ref:HD/P 5319
Your Ref:

14 November 2011

Dear Ms Eastaugh

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL): DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULES

Thank you for consulting English Heritage on the draft charging schedules for the Community Infrastructure Levy in the Greater Norwich area.

The Core Strategy for Greater Norwich allocates considerable growth in the coming years, and we understand that this is a critical moment in terms of defining the infrastructure that should be provided to support it.

English Heritage does not wish to make any comments on the level at which the CIL charge is set. We would, however, like consideration to be given to the definition of infrastructure, and how historic assets may be considered in this context. Where development proposals come forward for sites that contain historic assets, or there are effects on the setting, or viability, of such designations resulting from a development, it may be suitable to propose that CIL funding is used to mitigate such effects. This situation should clearly not justify granting permission where heritage impacts were in themselves unacceptable; however, there could be instances where repair and re-use of a heritage asset to serve a new community was appropriate. In such a case, defining the heritage asset as infrastructure would seem entirely suitable. In other circumstances, the use of CIL to fund public realm works in historic areas might be a suitable response.

We are also concerned regarding the potential for CIL to impact on the exceptional cases where enabling development is allowed with the express purpose of achieving a heritage goal. As you will be aware, enabling development is development that would not normally be permitted but, exceptionally, if the heritage asset has little chance of being viable without the economic gain from nearby development, it is occasionally justified. An example might be where housing development is permitted in the park of a country house defined as 'at risk' in order to restore the historic building. If the introduction of CIL would result in an increase in the amount of

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development required, it could be instrumental in increasing the damage to the setting of such an asset, and compromise the balance of harm and benefit.

We would be pleased to discuss any of the issues raised by the introduction of CIL further, if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Katharine Fletcher
Planner, East of England