

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Housing and Regeneration)

Date: 20th July 2012

Subject: Community infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. At the last Scrutiny Board (Housing and Regeneration) meeting reference was made to the former Scrutiny Board (Regeneration) request for a simple guide on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was reported that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) briefing note (an overview) on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been circulated to Members during the Scrutiny Board (Regeneration) inquiry on affordable housing which gives a good explanation of the proposals. A link to this overview document has been provided to all Members of this Board for information.
2. The Chair stated that that the DCLG briefing note and the way Leeds is moving forward on this is at variance with other Councils and asked for the Director of City Development's comments and an update on the current position.
3. The Director of City Development has submitted the following response:-

“ Officers are in the process of appointing consultants to advise on the viability issues relating to different types of development in different parts of the district. This is a crucial part of the process as the Council will need to provide evidence to an inspector that the CIL rate does not deter investment. As far as I am aware it is common practice to use consultants to provide specialist and independent advice on this issue. Bradford Council has just appointed for a similar exercise. We had a deadline for bids to do this work of 5th July and will be looking to appoint as soon as possible as we cannot make real progress until this work is completed. The work will help inform views on CIL rates although the final decision will of course rest with members. The consultants are not advising on how the money should be spent. That is a separate issue further down the line and will again be for members to determine.”

Recommendation

4. Members are asked to comment and note the current position.

Background documents¹

5. No documents referred to.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.