

**CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE
INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) TASK GROUP**

The Environment and Transport Select Committee recommends that the Cabinet:

- i) Considers and notes the 12 Key Findings of the Task Group, as outlined in Section 51 of the attached report.
- ii) Continues to work with districts and boroughs in order to consider how we might make decisions about infrastructure priorities in a two tier area.
- iii) Considers how to engage with the Development industry to enable discussions at member and officer level around issues of mutual concern and interest. This could include hosting events open to developers and all districts and boroughs.
- iv) Recognises the Task Group's concern about the potential impact of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) on CIL receipts, and investigate and quantify this risk and report back to the Select Committee.
- v) Endorses and oversees the joint work on viability across Surrey now being supported by the County Council to provide a consistent approach to assessing viability in different parts of the County in order to reduce public sector costs, make CIL charging levels easier to defend at examination and ensure that development remains viable.
- vi) The Task Group praises the work of the Joint Officer Working Group and asks the Cabinet to recognise the importance of effective joint working on CIL, and continue the work of the group.

Response:

I welcome the overall thrust of the recommendations from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group of the Environment and Transport Select Committee. Preparing for the introduction of CIL is crucial to both Surrey County Council and to the district and borough councils to ensure that we can provide the necessary infrastructure to support and mitigate the impacts of development in the county.

In relation to the Task Group's specific recommendations:

- i) Note the Task Group's Key Findings (outlined in Section 51 of their report). Indeed the Task Group has been working closely with officers preparing for the introduction of CIL and helped shaped the approach. I also note that much detailed information from officers has been included as annexes to the Task Group report.
- ii) Agree that it is crucial that we continue to work with districts and boroughs in order to consider how we might make decisions about infrastructure priorities in a two-tier area.
- iii) Will ask officers to engage with the Development industry to enable discussions at member and officer level around issues of mutual concern and interest, and to investigate the possibility of hosting events open to developers and all districts and boroughs.

- iv) Recognise the Task Group's concern about the potential impact of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) on CIL receipts. This is of particular importance for some Surrey districts and officers have been working jointly to investigate the issue and quantify the risks. I support the recommendation that officers report back on this to the Select Committee.
- v) Endorse joint work between Surrey County Council and the districts and boroughs on viability across Surrey. Indeed we have funded external support and advice for districts and boroughs to provide them with a consistent approach to assessing viability and help reduce public sector costs, as well as make CIL charging levels easier to defend at examination and ensure that development remains viable across the county.
- vi) Echo the Task Group in praising the work of the Joint Officer Working Group. This is an important area where we need to ensure effective joint working across the county. I welcome continued input from the Task Group to support this activity. I am particularly keen to ensure that they focus on how we work with partners to secure the necessary funding to mitigate the impacts of development in the county as well as agreeing the priorities for investment.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
24 July 2012