

Dear Sir

**South Gloucestershire Council  
Community Infrastructure Levy  
Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule**

The Cotswolds Conservation Board welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for South Gloucestershire..

The Cotswolds Conservation Board is the statutory body established in 2004 under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 with the duty to pursue two purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

In fulfilling these roles, the Board is required to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of people living in the AONB.

**In response to Question 9 of the consultation document**, the Board wishes to draw your attention to the Community Infrastructure Levy: Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule published by West Berkshire District Council in early 2013. A copy is attached to this response.

The proposed rates for CIL in that authority's area are set out in paragraph 5.3 of that document.

You will see that that authority is proposing a higher level of CIL for residential properties in the North Wessex Downs AONB. This is based on the findings of the West Berkshire Council – CIL Viability Study. <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=32943&p=0>

This study concluded that a higher rate of CIL could be justified in the AONB because of the “higher values” and limited level of growth generally seen in rural areas and in the AONB in particular.

The Board would suggest that such factors could be shown to justify a similar approach to the CIL levels in the Cotswolds AONB in South Gloucestershire, not just restricted to sites below the affordable dwelling requirement as suggested in the draft charging schedule.

I attach the Inspectors report with respect to the West Berks CIL in which he accepts the justification for a higher rate of CIL in the North Wessex Downs AONB.

The Board will be pleased to participate in further consultations on this subject.

Yours faithfully

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