

Birmingham City Council – Community Infrastructure Levy.

Opening Statement

The City Council is grateful to the Examiner for affording it the opportunity to make a short opening statement to introduce its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at this critical stage in its progress towards adoption.

Birmingham's population has doubled in the last 100 years making the City Council responsible for the most populous and largest local authority area in the UK and Europe. The City has also grown spatially over the years and absorbed many smaller settlements and its form is now characterised by urban development right up to its local authority boundaries (with the exception of some limited areas of Green Belt).

This rapidly expanding population has been accompanied by great economic growth and many, major industrial employers are based within the city, while others are relocating or consolidating their operations here.

The next stage of the City's growth is outlined in the Birmingham Development Plan which includes proposals for 50,000 new homes and 100,000 new jobs.

In order to support this planned growth, the City wishes to introduce a CIL – a funding mechanism to ensure all new development contributes to the infrastructure needed to support the future progress of Birmingham. The required infrastructure is far reaching and wide ranging and CIL will not be the sole funding source. It will be used to lever in additional funding to provide new educational facilities, improvements to parks, or new public transport facilities.

However, we acknowledge that while the economy is no longer in recession, the recovery is delicately balanced. Our proposed CIL charges do not prejudice this recovery, and clearly strike an appropriate balance between funding for the required infrastructure and the impact of the proposed CIL charges on economic viability.

We look forward to discussing our proposed CIL charges and have a number of officers and specialists available to address any points which arise.