

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS**

**Agenda Item No: 11b**

**Investment Package Update:**

**The Variable Tariff/Community Infrastructure Levy**

*To:* **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**

*Date:* **9<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

*From:* **Chief Executive**

*Purpose:* **To update Board members on progress with work to establish a Variable Rate Tariff or Community Infrastructure Levy for Cambridgeshire.**

*Recommendation:* **The Board is invited to note the contents of this report.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In September of this year, the Cambridgeshire Horizons Board was presented with an update on the package of investment measures intended to deliver infrastructure during the economic downturn and beyond. This paper sets out progress that has been made on the Variable Rate Tariff and Community Infrastructure Levy, two options for a standard charge on new development to fund infrastructure.

## 2. PROGRESS

Draft regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) in July 2009. As discussed at the September Board meeting, Cambridgeshire Horizons led a joint countywide response to the consultation on these regulations. This response was submitted prior to the deadline, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The final response agreed by all six Local Authorities can be viewed here:

[http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/publications/horizons/joint\\_cil\\_consultation\\_response\\_Oct\\_09.pdf](http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/publications/horizons/joint_cil_consultation_response_Oct_09.pdf)

In order to prepare for the anticipated introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy, Huntingdonshire District Council has established a Community Infrastructure Levy Task and Finish Group, with the aim of piloting the new charge. The group met on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and agreed actions for the coming few months.

In addition, Malcolm Sharp, Director of Environmental and Community Services at Huntingdonshire DC, is now a member of the Community Infrastructure Levy Project group. This national group is influencing the development of the CIL.

The results of the CLG consultation and final regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy are currently awaited. Should final regulations not come forward, the potential remains for a Variable Rate Tariff based on existing legislation. The same infrastructure evidence base, consisting of the countywide Integrated Development Programme and district Local Infrastructure Frameworks, would be necessary for either system of standard charging. The focus of investment package work since September has been on moving towards agreement of this evidence base.

## 3. NEXT STEPS

Cambridgeshire Horizons will continue to support work on Local Infrastructure Frameworks across Cambridgeshire, and more detailed work towards a CIL Charging Schedule with Huntingdonshire District Council. This may expand to include East Cambridgeshire District Council on another early pilot. The progress of the proposed regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy will also be carefully monitored.