

██████████  
South Worcestershire Development Plan  
Wychavon Civic Centre  
Queen Elizabeth Drive  
Persnore  
Worcestershire WR10 1PT

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear ██████████

**RE: Community Infrastructure Levy – Draft Charging Schedule (2016) and Revised Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2016)**

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and is an area that is popular with residents across the whole of South Worcestershire, leading to a requirement for ongoing environmental and visitor management. We consider that the needs of the AONB should be considered for inclusion in the Revised Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2016) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Draft Charging Schedule (2016).

The increase in development across South Worcestershire is likely to raise pressure on the landscape and lead to increased visits to the Malvern Hills AONB for recreation. The increased development and use by people may compromise the quality of existing walking and cycling infrastructure within the AONB and increase the need for provision for new recreational routes within the AONB. Additionally, the existing green infrastructure networks which are an important part of the historic character of the AONB may become fragmented as a result of increased use and reducing connectivity. It is therefore crucial that these networks are protected and enhanced where possible.

***Community Infrastructure Levy – Draft Charging Schedule (2016)***

In light of the above, the AONB Unit welcomes that the Regulation 123 List includes broad transport priorities for the provision, expansion, improvement, replacement and operation of new walking and existing cycling and open space/green infrastructure for all qualifying sites.

Notwithstanding this, the AONB Unit would like the document to make specific reference to maintenance and management costs of recreational routes such as cycle routes, public rights of way, permitted paths and green infrastructure under CIL.

The AONB Unit would be keen to work with the Councils to explore opportunities for CIL contributions to AONB projects and, where appropriate, identify works that can

be incorporated into planning developments in the AONB and opportunities to identify specific projects for S106 contributions e.g. public access projects, interpretation and landscape enhancements.

***Revised Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2016)***

Similarly to the above, the AONB Unit welcomes that the document includes requirements around open space and transport contributions.

It is important that the AONB priorities are reflected during negotiation of Section 106 contributions from developments within the AONB boundary or those which have a direct impact on the AONB. The Unit wish to be consulted should any such opportunities arise in order to assist in identifying any potential needs or projects directly relating to these developments.

Relating to paragraph 5.6 Other Planning Obligations – the AONB Unit feels that "**Landscape protection and enhancements**" should also be listed. The landscape character with its elements including orchards, parklands, ridgelines, ponds, quarries, hedgerows and watercourses is part of the special quality of the Malvern Hills AONB which the Unit was established to protect. Any opportunities to protect or enhance these features should be provided through this document.

Yours sincerely

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Paul Esrich  
Manager, Malvern Hills AONB Partnership

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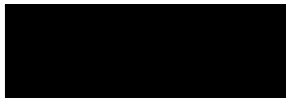
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