Dear Strategic Planning and Sustainability Team,

Thank you for consulting Natural England on your CIL Draft Charging Schedule, Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Draft SPD and SEA screening opinion documents. My brief comments are as follows:

CIL Draft Schedule
I note that we provided comments on a preliminary version of this document (dated 23/6/14 – our reference 121196) and I confirm that I have no additional comments to add.

Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Draft SPD
We welcome the reference to funding of green infrastructure provision (such as on-site formal and informal open space, biodiversity enhancement and the provision and management of new habitats and their management.

CIL Charging Schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan - SEA screening opinion
We accept your conclusions in the above documents (section 5 in each case), as follows:

The CIL charging schedule “does not introduce new policies and it is a purely financial tool.” It, therefore, “does not require an SEA under the Assessment of Environmental Plans and Programmes Regulation (2004). This is because there will be no significant environmental effects arising from its implementation, it supplements national guidance and is in any event a financial tool which Article 3(8) of the SEA Directive excludes from requiring SEA.”

Planning Obligation SPD – SEA screening opinion
The Planning Obligations SPD will not introduce new policies and is purely a guidance document. It, therefore, does “not require an SEA under the Assessment of Environmental Plans and Programmes Regulation (2004). This is because there will be no significant environmental effects arising from its implementation, it supplements national guidance and is in any event a financial tool which Article 3(8) of the SEA Directive excludes from requiring SEA.”

Due to the current pressure of consultations on land-use proposals, plans and appeals, I have not been able to spend the time I would have wished to review and comment on your CIL Draft Charging Schedule, Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Draft SPD and SEA screening opinion documents. Nevertheless, I hope you find these comments helpful.

If there are issues I have not covered, please let me know and I will respond as quickly as
possible. If discussion would be helpful, please give me a call.

If you wish to comment on the service provided by Natural England, please use the appended form.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Bishop
Adviser
Sustainable Development
Sussex & Kent Team

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We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Customer Service Excellence Standard.

From: Howe, Catherine [mailto:catherine.howe@horsham.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 May 2016 17:24
To: 'southeast@historicengland.org.uk'; 'planningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk'; Consultations (NE)
Subject: FW: Horsham District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule (regulation 16) and Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing-Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Planning Consultation (Regulation 12)

In addition to the information below which was sent to you on 6 May, please find attached the SEA Screening Opinions for both the CIL and Planning Obligations documents for your consideration.

Kind regards

Catherine Howe
Principal Planning Officer

Telephone: 01403 215505 |
Email: catherine.howe@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you as Horsham District Council have agreed to publish the above documents for consultation which are available for viewing and comment here; https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planningpolicy/planning-policy/current-consultations.

In summary these documents are:

**CIL Draft Charging Schedule** – This sets out the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy charging rates for new development across Horsham District. These financial contributions will be used to fund infrastructure which is required to support new growth. After the consultation the CIL Draft Charging Schedule will be submitted for examination. When it has passed the examination and has been adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy will in part replace planning obligations through S106 contributions and will help fund infrastructure required to deliver new development across the district. As well as inviting comments on the Draft Charging Schedule the Council would be pleased to receive your views on the relevant evidence base, which include the viability appraisal and infrastructure delivery plan.

**Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD** - The collection of contributions and affordable housing will still be used in a reduced format to meet site specific requirements which arise from development. For this reason a draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been produced which reflects the changing nature of S106 alongside the introduction of CIL. The SPD is a guidance document and not a policy document. This document will be submitted alongside the CIL as a background document and adopted once the CIL is adopted.

Should you wish to comment or make representations, we are encouraging all those who can to make these using the on-line form on our website https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planningpolicy/planning-policy/current-consultations.

However, if preferred, comments can be emailed to strategic.planning@horsham.gov.uk or sent to: Strategic Planning Team, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1RL. The deadline for comments is 5pm on Friday 17 June 2016.

For any further queries please contact a member of the Strategic Planning & Sustainability Team on 01403 215398.

Yours sincerely

Strategic Planning & Sustainability Team
Horsham District Council

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