



Canal &  
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

12 July 2016

Local Plan Team  
Magdalen House  
Trinity Road  
Bootle  
L20 3NJ

**Our Ref** 2016-CIL-SE-TBS  
**Your Ref**

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy**

Thank you for your recent consultation in respect of the Sefton Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is a charity entrusted with the care of over 2000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs in England and Wales. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. Our waterways contribute to the health and well-being of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time.

To meet the Trusts objectives it is of vital importance to us that all levels of planning policy and associated documents provide a robust policy framework that recognises and supports canals, rivers and docks as a cross-cutting policy theme; and acknowledges the diverse roles which they perform including:

- being a form of strategic and local infrastructure performing multiple functions (including sustainable transport, open space and green infrastructure, land drainage and water supply as well as flood alleviation), which is likely to be affected by all scales and types of development;
- improving the physical environment, providing opportunities for people and the wider economy;
- contributing to supporting climate change, carbon reduction and environmental sustainability; and
- the public benefits that can be and are generated by our canals, rivers and docks.

The Trusts comments on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy are therefore focussed on ensuring that the importance and multifunctional nature of its assets are acknowledged and provided for within the document.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) document refers to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal as green infrastructure. It is noted that the IDP does not cover green infrastructure. It is disappointing that

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the multi-functional nature of the canal corridor has not been acknowledged. They do not only provide recreational and ecological habitats, but their functions include a leisure, recreation and tourism resource; a source of water and an integral part of the land drainage system; a catalyst for economic and social regeneration of both urban and rural areas; a sustainable transport route; and an important heritage and ecological resource.

It is noted that the IDP at section 5.1.3 Walking and Cycling does acknowledge towpaths as a sustainable transport asset and refers to policy EX9 of the emerging Local Plan. The Trust are concerned that with the exclusion of green infrastructure from the IDP that there may not be a mechanism to ensure financial contributions towards the maintenance, improvement and provision of towpath within the Borough as a direct result of new development and increased usage.

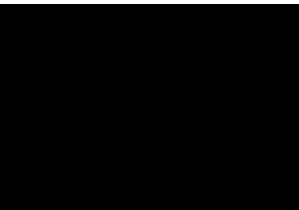
The Trust want to ensure that new development that would place an increased burden on the infrastructure of our waterways, such as the towpaths and is relied upon as a sustainable transport link by new development provide a contribution towards maintenance and re-surfacing of towpaths either through CIL or s106. It may be the case that towpath improvements needs to be added to the exclusion list so that site specific financial contributions can be sought for development adjacent to our waterways and where they would increase towpath usage.

The Trust has no comments to make on the Draft Charging Schedule.

The Trust hopes that these comments are considered and looks forward to future opportunities to comment on further consultation documents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or wish to discuss any of these matters further

I would be grateful if you could keep us informed of progress with the document.

Yours sincerely



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