The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is neither a policy nor a strategy. It is a levy on new development based on a charge per square metre of new development gross internal floor space.

CIL intends to facilitate economic growth and liveability and so create opportunity for all. It is aimed at increasing funding for Infrastructure City wide, and in doing so, improving access to services and facilities for all. Although initially CIL may be seen only as an economic obligation on landowners or developers, in providing additional infrastructure to support development within the City, CIL is expected to have a positive economic effect on development in the medium to long term.

The Council consulted on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule between 13th July 2012 – 24th August 2012. Letters and e-mails were sent to all consultation bodies and those thought to have an interest in CIL including voluntary organisations. The consultation documents were placed on deposit at the Central Library and St Aldates Chambers and were available on the City Council’s website. Local newspapers provided press cover of CIL before and during the consultation period.

The Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule did not propose variable charges for same land uses in different areas; neither has it recommended to set artificially low or high charges for different land uses, and it is unlikely to have a differential impact on any particular social group.

CIL charges do not create direct equalities impacts. Nevertheless, the implementation of CIL funds could have potential impacts on the funding of projects by certain groups such as those in the voluntary sector. These organisations were consulted during the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Stage and will continue to be included in the consultation process to CIL adoption.
2. In brief, what changes are you planning to make to your current or proposed new or changed policy, strategy, procedure, project or service to minimise or eliminate the adverse equality impacts?

Please provide further details of the proposed actions, timetable for making the changes and the person(s) responsible for making the changes on the resultant action plan.

CIL is a local levy introduced under the Planning Act 2008 and the Localism Act 2011 which will raise funds to deliver infrastructure that is required to enable growth. CIL will provide a more consistent and transparent mechanism to raise financial contributions currently sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (S106). CIL is locally administered. While the level of charges proposed must undergo independent examination, the spending of CIL receipts is for the Council to determine.

It is important to note that CIL Regulations provide CIL relief for Affordable Housing and for development by charitable organisations.

In terms of charging the levy: CIL regulations require that the levy must not make development proposals unviable, and that any variations to the charge, or relief from paying the charge, are solely based on the grounds of economic viability. The Council has taken great care to ensure that this is the case.

It must also be borne in mind that there are some aspects of the Regulations which may affect equality, for which the Council has not control. For example a ‘change of use’ of a building will not normally be required to pay CIL, however a charge will be levied if the existing building is deemed to no-longer be in ‘lawful use’. In consequence there may be occasions where the interpretation of ‘lawful’ use is applied differently – while this does not appear to disadvantage any particular development nor any geographical location, the Council will need to be mindful of consistency. However, the Council is familiar with such issues, in particular due to it statutory ‘planning enforcement ‘ functions.

The Government is expected to publish new CIL Regulations which will require a minimum percentage of CIL receipts must be passed on to parishes or community councils. It applies where there is a locally elected council for the area where the development that gave rise to the payment takes place. Where no parish or community council exists the proposal is for the City Council to retain the funds and engage with their communities to decide how it should be spent. The City Council will determine the boundaries of the community where receipts will be applied and how to engage with the community.

No change required relating to equality impacts.
3. Please provide details of whom you will consult on the proposed changes and if you do not plan to consult, please provide the rationale behind that decision.

The Government has already conducted an EqIA on the introduction of CIL. This identified no adverse impact\(^1\).

Officers have not identified local circumstances which would result in an adverse impact on equalities in the city with the introduction of CIL charges, and none of the comments received during the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule consultation indicate an adverse equality impact.

For the forthcoming consultation on CIL, the Draft Charging Schedule, the Council will contact:
- The consultation bodies as per CIL regulations;
- Those contacted at the previous stage (Preliminary Draft charging Schedule); and
- Those who submitted a representation at the previous stage.

The Council will give notice of the consultation in the local press, place documents on deposit at the Central Library and St Aldates Chamber, and make the documents available online in the Council’s consultation portal, and Planning Policy web pages.

4. Can the adverse impacts you identified during the initial screening be justified without making any adjustments to the existing or new policy, strategy, procedure, project or service?

No adverse impacts identified

5. You are legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts.

No adverse impacts identified. Nevertheless, the Council will monitor the implementation of CIL through its Annual Monitoring Report once CIL is adopted. The Council will also report annually how much money has been levied through CIL, in which projects has CIL money been spent and how much CIL revenue is left.

Lead officers responsible for signing off the EqIA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Garcia</td>
<td>CIL officer</td>
<td>19.11.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarlath Brine</td>
<td>Equalities &amp; Diversity Business Partne</td>
<td>16.11.12</td>
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