



Hampshire County Council

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26 August 2010

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities
And Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON SW1E 5DU

Councillor Ken Thornber CBE
Leader of the Council

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Dear Secretary of State

I write to ask for your help in the consideration of a serious concern that I and my fellow Councillors on our Environment and Transport Select Committee in Hampshire have over the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), another regrettable legacy from your predecessor.

We have very real concerns that the levy, if it proceeds, will severely restrict our ability to plan and deliver the strategic infrastructure needed to support development and deliver sustainable, and locally acceptable growth in the future. The County Council is bemused by the previous Government's insistence on ploughing ahead with this bureaucratic and irrational idea, which removes absolutely the ability of the County Councils to secure developer funding for infrastructure provision directly, and leaves the likelihood of a piecemeal approach and a post-code lottery across the County in respect of services and infrastructure which needs to be carefully delivered and co-ordinated in a strategic and timely way.

We have campaigned long and hard for a strategic tariff approach as an alternative, based on collaboration between local planning authorities and the strategic service providers like the County Council. This sort of approach has served us reasonably well through imaginative use of the existing S106 provisions, which the new CIL regulations will prevent from 2014 onwards. I therefore ask if it would be possible for us to meet you or your officials to discuss the potential for developing an alternative arrangement to CIL, or at least allowing continued use of existing S106 provisions for collecting developer contributions for off-site infrastructure such as schools or transport works.

Yours sincerely

Ken Thornber
Leader