



# The Infrastructure Levy (or 'IL')

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## Planning for the Future

 The Community Infrastructure Levy and the current system of planning obligations will be reformed as a nationally set, value-based flat rate charge (the 'Infrastructure Levy').

> Planning for the Future White Paper August 2020 MHCLG

### Consolidate d IL System

- Single and simplified
- Mandatory
  - Nationally set
  - All / wider uses
- Value based:
  - Final development value
  - % over fixed threshold
  - 'Buoyant' / responsive
  - Transparent

#### Increase LPA Powers

- Incorporate affordable housing funding:
  - In-kind on-site
  - Specify types, tenures etc.
  - Levy payment
- Forward fund (via borrowing)
- Reduce expenditure restrictions
  - Wider public service funding

#### No Viability Negotiations

- Maximise capture of land value uplift via planning
- Non-negotiable process
- Remove site-specific viability assessments
- Remove S106 Agreements

#### Close PD Loophole

- Bring in PD change of use
- Broaden levy base
- Ensure mitigate impacts



## The Current System

#### Planning Obligations • Section 106 Planning Obligations: and CIL • Legislated for under TCPA 1990 (as amended)

- Determined locally: based on national policy and adopted Local Plan policies
- Infrastructure and affordable housing needs evidence base prepared
- Primary viability testing of site-typologies / strategic allocations:
  - Plan-making stage in setting of policies
  - Targets introduced for affordable housing
  - Other policy-costs for mitigating infrastructure burden
- Application stage:
  - Obligations sought towards necessary mitigating infrastructure
  - Optional site-specific viability assessment (at determination stage)
  - LPA flexibility to determine priorities and adjust obligations accordingly
  - Obligations legally secured via Section 106 Agreement

#### Planning Obligations • Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL'): and CIL

- Legislated for under Planning Act 2008 and CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended)
- Optional to LPAs (circa 50% adoption):
  - Discretion as to whether to introduce in tandem with S106 regime
  - Rates set via Charging Schedule
- Viability-tested:
  - Charging rates determined locally
  - Rates based on IFS, viability evidence and examination in public
  - Set on £/m<sup>2</sup> GIA (net) floorspace
  - Fine-grained rates by use, location, scale, site-specifics etc.
- Fixed-charge: triggered by grant of PP and payable from commencement
- Index-linked: rates increase annually subject to RICS BCIS All-in TPI
- Expenditure focused on infrastructure (excluding affordable housing)

and CIL



MHCLG publication – University of Liverpool (August 2020) The Incidence, Value and Delivery of Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy in England in 202 **Represents 15% of total** 

#### THE CURRENT SYSTEM (4)

Value of Developer Contributions – Disaggregated (£ Billions) Financial Year: 2018/19



# To stand still, a 'consolidated' IL must be higher than CIL by a factor of:





\*2020-21 (Nil Grant) = 47%

#### The Prospective System:

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill ('LURB') 11 May 2022

### Implementin g IL

- Locally determined by LPA
- Flexibility in setting differential rates:
  - Location; types; thresholds
  - Stepped rates over time
- Introduced via similar process to CIL:
  - Viability evidence-base
  - Infrastructure Delivery Strategy
  - Statutory consultation
  - Examination in public
  - Adopted IL Charging Schedule

#### Affordable Housing

- Brought under IL funding regime:
  - Will be 'infrastructure'
- Deliver 'as much' as current regime
- New 'right to require':
  - LPA sets provision of AH on-site
  - PIK subtracted from IL

## S106 & CIL

- S106 remains to:
  - Secure integral infrastructure
  - Support delivery of 'largest sites'
  - Facilitate legacy regime
- CIL remains:
  - Mayoral CIL (Greater London)
  - Wales
  - Legacy regime (phased out)

### Wider LPA Role

- IL administration:
  - Estimating IL liability
  - Managing in-kind delivery
  - Collection and expenditure
  - Retain neighbourhood share and administrative portion (as CIL)
- Utilise borrowing powers:
  - Procure, forward fund and recoup
  - Direct delivery or acquire (e.g. AH)



# IL Regulations & Guidance

The devil is in the detail...

- Practical matters remain for regulation and guidance:
  - IL rate setting contentious:
    - High-stakes at IL Examination
    - >7x CIL fixed charge with no viability release valve
    - Expect landowners and developers to scrutinise and contest
  - GDV % threshold methodology question effectiveness:
    - Generic fixed GDV % over threshold risks being overly blunt
    - Low value markets sites unviable or LPA raises no / limited IL
    - High value or rising markets developer makes outsized returns
    - Site-specific top-slice profit capture likely to secure higher levy funds
    - Government prioritising simplicity in GDV over maximising IL receipts? 16

The devil is in the detail...

- Practical matters remain for regulation and guidance:
  - Valuation protocols:
    - How and when will scheme GDV be valued, and by whom?
    - What is the process for resolving valuation disputes and Appeals?
  - Collection and timely expenditure:
    - When will IL payments be required?
    - How will timely IL expenditure be ensured?
  - Unintended consequences:
    - Developers go 'risk off' from brownfield / low value locations to max GDV?
    - Who foots the bill if funding costs overrun, or IL receipts undershoot?
    - Will LPAs prioritise infrastructure over public services in tough times? 17



## Transitional Arrangements

TRANSITIONAL ARR	ANGEMENTS			
2022	2023	2024	2025	2026+
LURB	IL   Reg	gulations	"Test and Learn"	Phased Roll-out
<ul> <li>Primary Legislation</li> <li>Passed 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings in Commons</li> </ul>	– Anticip – Expecte	ary legislation 'made' <b>ated in 2024</b> ed to be supported by:	<ul> <li>Local Authority volunteers:</li> <li>Anticipated 2024-25</li> <li>Switch to IL from CIL/S106:</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>SoS to set timetable for each LPA:</li> <li>Expected to be staggered</li> <li>Minimum lead-in of 12 months</li> </ul>

- Details not yet published

– Examine impacts of transition:

- Will require meaningful period

- Refine IL Regulations and guidance

Impact assessment

Technical guidance

- Presently at Committee Stage
- Still to undergo:
  - Report Stage (Commons)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading (Commons)
  - Repetition of process in Lords
  - Consideration of Amendments
- Royal Assent in 2023 ('Act')

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- Anticipated 2025-26+

- Mayoral CIL (indefinitely)

 Adopted CIL / planning obligations (phased out)

IL will continue to operate

alongside:



### Concluding Remarks

#### Strengths

- Transparency / accountability
- Broader base for securing funds:
  - All / wider uses levied
- Accelerated determination process:
  - Smaller sites
- Self-adjusting to conditions:
  - Levy payable moves with market
  - No need for renegotiations
- Larger sites excluded:
  - Maintain flexibility via S106 route

#### Weaknesses

- Absence of impact assessment:
  - No options appraisal
  - No clarity over performance
- Too much left for Regulations
- Technical methodology unknown:
  - No clarity if genuinely simpler
  - Oversimplification less effective
- Slow build-up of IL funds:
  - Unless LPAs take on debt
- GDV ignores actual scheme performance:
  - Profitability more reasoned
- Needs maintained / increased land supply

## Opportunitie

#### S

- 'Clean slate' redesign system
- Compress development land values
- Capture greater 'upside' via final GDV
- Grow funds beyond current system
- Ring-fence affordable housing
- Increased delivery role for LPAs:
  - Affordable housing requirements
  - Tenures / types / sizes
  - Procure / acquire stock

#### Threats

- Increased LPA administration:
  - Becomes overly complex (again)
- Delayed implementation / roll-out
- Fails to outperform current system
- The Marcus Jones amendment:
  - IL spending on non-infr. matters
- Undermines regeneration
- Forward funding (borrowing) risk
- Increased developer's risk:
  - High stakes rates contested
  - Deter brownfield first
  - Valuation disputes and Appeals

# Thank you

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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