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Via email: planning.policy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

26 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NETWORK RAIL RESPONSE TO GREENWICH CIL CHARGING SCHEDULE

Thank you for providing Network Rail (Southern) with the opportunity to make comment on the CIL charging schedule. The railway network is a vital element of the country's economy and a key component in the drive to deliver the Government's sustainable agenda.

In addition, Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining, operating and developing the main railway network and its associated estate. Our aim is to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure.

Network Rail is supportive of the CIL charging schedule as consulted upon by the Council. A significant amount of funding for enhancements to the rail network comes from sources such as CIL and therefore, the more funding that is captured via this mechanism potentially means the greater the opportunity for this to be spent on the rail network. This timing alongside the work being done on the Local Plan would allow opportunity to discuss and identify infrastructure improvements that could be funded via CIL.

Network Rail would be keen to assist the Council in identifying suitable projects that current and future CIL monies could be spent on and, as a statutory body, would welcome involvement in any high-level spending or advisory boards that the Council may operate in setting the direction for the spending of CIL. Network Rail have recently been invited to join Dartford BC's Leader's Advisory Group on CIL. This is based on Network Rail having a strategic view of the Local Authority area to ensure the money is being raised to fund the right infrastructure.

Network Rail are keen to work with RB Greenwich going forward in supporting to identify infrastructure needs and funding opportunities to improve the rail network within the Borough, for the benefits of the local economy and residents.

I trust that the above is clear, should you require additional information or to have a meeting to discuss the above then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Hatton MRTPI
Senior Town Planner