

Interim Statement of Common Ground between the Greater Norwich Authorities and Natural England on the GIRAMS

29/07/2021.

Natural England confirmation email:

Thank you for your email and the latest version of the GIRAMS SoCG with Natural England.

At the area team level, we are happy for the latest version to be submitted as an interim SoCG, with the caveat that we will be seeking internal legal advice on the latest draft and is subject to our legal team's agreement.

Well done for all the hard work that you and other officers have put in to getting it to this point.

Regards

Lead Adviser – Norfolk & Suffolk Team

Natural England

Dragonfly House

2 Guilders Way

Norfolk NR1 3UB

T: 020802 64893 M: 07920 086653

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Interim agreed statement:

The Greater Norwich partnership has cooperated with the other Planning Authorities across Norfolk including the Broads Authority over recreational impacts through a properly constituted Duty to Cooperate Board. The Greater Norwich partnership accepts that a county wide approach is the best way to mitigate against recreational pressures on key Norfolk habitat sites as a result of incremental housing growth.

Having accepted the nature of development pressures and considered an Action Plan to calculate a quantum of cost, each Local Planning Authority has agreed that they will bring forward procedures for the collection of the county wide tariff of £185.93 per new dwelling.

The Greater Norwich partnership also accepts that any action plan must be implemented in a manner which meets legal requirements and delivers the objects of the regulations. To that end the parties agree that robust governance, prioritisation

and success factors/measures need to be developed alongside a workable process model so it is clear to those who will pay the charge in particular locations where their contributions will be applied and how.

Having established a quantum of financial requirement, the Partners and other LPAs are mindful that the governance, success factors for the scheme and other process points including apportionment, joint decision-making and prioritisation still need to be finalised. Whilst these matters are being finalised, the Greater Norwich partners, alongside the other LPAs, will implement the GIRAMS package as the best available evidence.

A review of the mitigation package which all partners, including Natural England, commit to, will be carried out within 15 months from [insert date].

This review must meet the following criteria: it must be legally robust and the mitigation package must be deliverable, effective in that they mitigate incremental development over the forty-or-so sites across the county, proportionate to local development pressures and based upon professional advice and underpinned with evidence. The review will consider the appropriateness of a warden scheme alongside other mitigations and the associated revenue/capital funding of a new plan with the apportionment of resources to ensure the effectiveness of the overall mitigation package is maximised over the life of the scheme.

All parties commit to implementing any revisions to the mitigation package identified by the review within 18 months from [insert date].