

Press Release - Guildford, UK, 24 May 2007

Department for Transport Research Project on Commuted Sums

The Department for Transport (DfT), working with the UK Roads Liaison Group, has appointed the recognised market leaders in highway management research, **Chris Britton Consultancy** (CBC), to review of the practice of charging Commuted Sums for future maintenance of prospectively adoptable highway works, and produce a Good Practice Guidelines Document for local highway authorities in England and Wales.

Commuted sums are not new, and are frequently sought by local highway authorities, from developers, to secure the future maintenance of the general “public realm” aspects of new developments. However, current practices are varied, with little consistency about the way such sums are sought to fund future maintenance of the highway asset.

The aim is for the resulting document to be acceptable to all stakeholders, enabling local authorities to negotiate commuted sums with confidence, and informing developers of potential requirements from the outset of a development project. It will provide clarity and uniformity to the process, and help minimise the risk of legal disputes. The document could also be useful for other transferable assets such as public open spaces etc.

CBC’s main partners for this project are **Roger Tym & Partners**, providing specialist planning and development economics advice, and **Osborne Clarke**, providing specialist legal advice. The Guidance will be launched at an appropriate national event in the spring of 2008.

The project’s first phase is to establish current practice, and a questionnaire will be sent out (by e-mail) to local highway authorities and developers in June. Selected telephone interviews may follow. Your assistance would be much appreciated should you be contacted. The initial principle is that information will be non-attributable, but if any experience or policies resolve themselves into good practice we may request that the relevant source be named.

The project is being led by John Linsley (Regional Director with CBC). If you wish to be involved, or to discuss the project, please contact him on **01302 623205** or at **john.linsley@chrisbritton.co.uk**.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For additional information visit Chris Britton Consultancy's website <http://www.chrisbritton.co.uk/index.asp> or call **01483 304364**.

Chris Britton Consultancy provides reliable, independent and creative highway management solutions, both in the UK and internationally. Combining unrivalled operational, management and systems experience, we help you deliver your promises, by listening, anticipating and understanding your business. We believe exceptional client service can only be delivered by exceptional people. Our people make a difference, because we employ dedicated, highly skilled practitioners who have a wealth of experience in the UK and overseas, and who enjoy creating something that matters. Our team blends engineering, IT and business skills, they enjoy their work and thrive on making a difference to the way our clients do business. We supplement your resources and promote better ways of working to enable you to keep your eyes on the road ahead.

Roger Tym & Partners has a 34 year track record as a town planning and development economics consultancy:

we provide the full range of planning services for property developers and regeneration agencies;

we carry out research for government and public agencies to inform the making of policy and improve its delivery; and

we use economic analyses and forecasting techniques to inform decisions by developers, investors, central and local government and development and regeneration agencies.

Our planning work is distinguished by our capabilities as economists and analysts; our economics is enriched by our expertise in planning and our experience of the delivery of development.

Our private clients gain from our standing in the public sector, and our public sector clients gain from our first hand knowledge of the development industry.

Our advice is evidence-based and robust.

We are imaginative, innovative and we set industry standards.

For further information visit our website: www.tymconsult.com

For specific information on this study, contact Henry Brougham 020 7831 2711

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