CEC – Supplementary Guidance Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery Consultation Response – 2 March 2018

Do you have any comments on the Council's approach to delivering the infrastructure required to support development? Your views will be used to further inform the content of the final supplementary guidance.

Please find below comments from the Scottish Government, being those of Planning and Architecture Division (PAD) and Transport Scotland.

Your authority will wish to satisfy itself that statutory requirements have been met, particularly those relating to providing an adequate opportunity for those who may be expected to wish to make representations. Please note, PAD were not notified of the consultation on the supplementary guidance.

We would find it helpful to receive confirmation if the consultation on this supplementary guidance relates to amendments to the previous guidance which we notified should not be adopted or issued, or if it is a new piece of supplementary guidance that is following statutory procedures afresh.

We would also encourage your authority to ensure that it is satisfied that the tests set out in Circular 3/2012 Planning Obligations and Good Neighbour Agreements are met.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP, June 2014) outlines the core values of the planning service in Scotland. It refers that the service should make decisions in a timely, transparent and fair way to provide a supportive business environment and engender public confidence in the system. It would therefore be appropriate to ensure that the information that supports the supplementary guidance, such as appraisals and assessments, are available to stakeholders during the consultation so that responses to it are able to be fully informed.

We note that the Education Appraisal was updated in January 2018 and that housing numbers for the International Business Gateway (IBG) have been removed along with a reference that part of the site is available for a new secondary school. However, the updated appraisal now states that 'the potential opportunity to deliver a new secondary school within the IBG will be explored as part of the masterplan process for the area'. We would wish to reinforce previous correspondence from Scottish Ministers to your authority regarding the masterplan and a new school within the IBG. Our letter regarding adoption of the Local Development Plan of November 2016 referred that as the masterplan is prepared it should be consistent with the National Planning Framework. Our response to the initial consultation on developer contributions supplementary guidance of February 2017 highlighted our concern about a new secondary school at the IBG given the potential for it to compromise the site for its intended purpose by creating ambiguity around the business-led role of the IBG and thereby potentially diminishing the business opportunities available at this prime location.

In relation to other appraisals and assessments, we are unable to establish if there has been a further update to the West Edinburgh Transport Appraisal since December 2016 and were unable to confirm the content of the Primary Health Care Appraisal. As such we are unable to establish the assumptions in the appraisals and potential influence on National Development 10, Strategic Airport Enhancement.

Transport Scotland cannot support the wording in relation to the delivery of infrastructure on page 8 and 13; "The Council will transfer any monies collected towards actions on the trunk road network to Transport Scotland once the relevant project is confirmed". This statement was included in response to previous comments which noted that it was inaccurate to state that funding for some schemes would 'come from the Cross Boundary Study'. The detailed design for grade separation of Sheriffhall is on-going, meaning a cost profile is not currently available. It is therefore not possible to determine a delivery and funding mechanism, or timetable, for this project, meaning the above statement is premature and should be removed

We trust these comments will be given appropriate consideration and would be happy to discuss them with you if that would be helpful, prior to Scottish Minister's final scrutiny when the supplementary guidance is notified to them for adoption.