

Freedom of Information Team  
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www.oxford.gov.uk



4 September 2025

Freedom of Information Request, Oxford City Council – Reference: **FOI2025/00911**

Further to our acknowledgement, we can confirm that Oxford City Council can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request received on 23 July:

Request

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 23.07.2025 for The Sunday Times newspaper for the following information

1. \* Has the local authority adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and, if so, when did it adopt this tax?

Oxford City Council has adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), on 21 October 2013.

2. \* How much money received via CIL payments is currently held, unspent, by the local planning authority?

As at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 the Council held £11.96 million unspent CIL funds.

3. \* How much of this sum has been allocated for infrastructure projects and how much is currently unallocated?

£3.58 million was allocated in the 2025/26 budget to finance the capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29, however it is anticipated this allocation will increase in the forthcoming budget round.

4. \* What is the current interest rate (%) that the local authority receives for holding unspent CIL money?

See the response to Q6.

5. \* What was the monetary value of the interest accrued from unspent CIL monies for the financial year 2023/24?

See the response to Q6.

6. \* Is the interest generated from unspent CIL monies directed towards the local authority's general fund?

The response to questions numbered 4 to 6 has been grouped below due to the way in which local authority finance and cash management operates:

The Council manages its cash resources overall and does not manage individual elements of Council resources for the purposes of treasury investments. The council manages its cash resources to ensure that there are enough cash funds available to cover its daily cashflow requirements. Cash resources over the daily cashflow requirements are utilised as internal borrowing instead of taking out external borrowing. All costs and income relating to treasury activities are allocated appropriately between the Council's General Fund and the Council's Housing Revenue Account in accordance with statutory requirements to maintain a ringfence.

7. \* Are CIL funds ring-fenced for community infrastructure projects?

In line with section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended by the 2012 and 2013 Regulations, the levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, other health and social care facilities, play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes, police stations, other community safety facilities and a limited amount of administration costs. The Council spends CIL funds in line with the legislation and associated regulations.

8. \* What is the rate (£ per square metre) that the local authority charges for CIL-liable development?

<b>Development Type (changes to the Use Class Order came into effect 1 September 2020)</b>	<b>Jan 2023 Rates per m2</b>	<b>Jan 2024 Rates per m2</b>	<b>Proposed rates per m2 following Partial Review Consultation</b>	<b>Jan 2025 Rates per m2</b>
E Shops	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
E Financial and professional services	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
E Restaurants and cafés	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
Sui Generis Drinking establishments	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
Sui Generis Hot food takeaways	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
E Offices and R&D (new rate from August 2025)	£31.59	£33.74	£168.74	£172.28
B2 General industrial	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
B8 Storage or distribution	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
C1 Hotels	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
C2 and C2A Residential institutions and secure residential institutions	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
C3 Dwelling houses (includes self-contained sheltered accommodation and self-contained graduate accommodation)	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
C4 Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
Student accommodation	£158.00	£168.74	£168.74	£172.28
F1 Non-residential institutions	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
Sui Generis Assembly and leisure	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45
All development types unless stated otherwise in this table	£31.59	£33.74	£33.74	£34.45

CIL payments are index linked from the year when CIL is introduced to the year when planning permission is granted. The index we use was developed by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and is prepared and maintained by the Building and Cost Information Services (BCIS).

9. \* How many planning applications for main residences were liable for CIL in 2023/24?

Planning applications liable for CIL are counted by calendar year due to the indexation being added on 1st January each year. There were 66 planning applications for main residences liable for CIL in 2023 and 93 applications in 2024

10. \* What percentage of property developments with 10 or more residential dwellings were liable for CIL in 2023/24?

There were 2 property developments with 10 or more residential dwellings that were liable for CIL in 2023 and 1 property development in 2024.

If you disagree with any part of the response to your request, you are entitled to ask the Council for an internal review of the decision(s) made. You may do this by writing to the Monitoring Officer, by either email [monitoringofficer@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@oxford.gov.uk) – or by post to Monitoring Officer, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX. After the result of the internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner to intervene on your behalf. You may do this by writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

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