



PLANNING POLICY VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCTION COST STUDY

For

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MARCH 2016

Planning Policy Viability Assessment

Order of Cost Study

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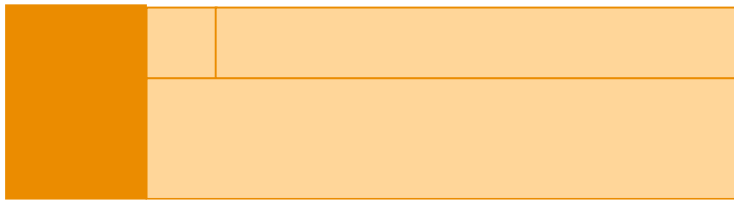
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Executive Summary

1. The Project

This Cost Study provides an estimate of construction costs over a range of development categories, to support a Planning Policy Viability Assessment.

2. Allowances

The Estimate includes on-cost allowances for the following:

- Consultants
- Building Regulations and Planning fees
- NHBC Insurance where applicable

3. Basis of Estimate

The basis of the Estimate is in Section 2 of this report.

4. Detailed Construction Cost Study

The detailed Cost Study is given in Section 3 of this report.

5. Risk Allowance

A Risk Allowance of 5% of construction cost is recommended

Project Description

NCS have been appointed by Brentwood Borough Council for the production of the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, through to adoption.

Gleeds are acting as part of the NCS team, to provide indicative construction costs, over the range of development categories, to inform the Appraisal.

The range of development categories are as agreed with NCS.

Basis of Cost Study

Base Date

Rates for Construction Costs in the Estimate have been priced at a Base Date of 1st quarter (January to March) 2016. Allowances must be made for inflation beyond this date dependent on the mid-point date of construction.

Procurement

The costs included in this Estimate assume that procurement is to be achieved on a single stage competitive tender basis, from a selected list of Contractors.

Scope of Development Types

The scope of development types within the various categories varies between categories.

This is reflected within the range of construction values stated for a particular category.

For the purposes of undertaking the Viability Appraisal, average rates for construction have been given for each development category; the range of values have also been stated.

Basis of Costs

The following benchmarking data was used in the preparation of the estimate:

1. Analysis of construction costs over a range of projects within the Gleeds Research and Development Data Base.
2. Where insufficient data is available within any particular category cross-reference is also made to BCIS construction cost information.
3. The rates adopted in the study are based on research of local construction projects to the region, the costs associated with these and Gleeds own national database of construction costs by construction type. The report recognises that different types of construction company incur different levels of costs due to differences in buying power, economies of scale etc. The rates assume that substantial new residential development will be undertaken primarily by regional and national house builders and the adopted rates reflect this. The adopted rates therefore tend to fall below median BCIS construction rates which cover building cost information from all types of construction company to individual builders. This is considered to be a more realistic approach than the adoption of median general rates, to reflect the mainstream new build residential development particularly since smaller schemes undertaken by smaller scale construction companies will enjoy exemption from zero carbon and affordable housing requirements.
4. Reference is also made to the Communities and Local Government Cost Analysis for Code for Sustainable Homes, in respect of dwelling costs. For all future reports from October 2015 onwards the figures presented will be based upon the upcoming National Housing Standards that are estimated to come into force at this time. Early indications and analysis suggest that there will be little cost variance beyond an equivalent CoSH Code 4 as a result although we will continue to monitor the situation.

All construction costs have been adjusted for Location Factor (Brentwood, Essex)

Note: the cost allowances are based on the current building regulations, as at March 2016.

Costs for the option of achieving Breeam Excellent on other categories have also been separately identified.

Assumptions/Clarifications

The following assumptions/clarifications have been made during the preparation of this Estimate:

- The costs included in this Estimate assume that competitive tenders will be obtained on a single stage competitive basis.
- There are no allowances in the Estimates for Works beyond the site boundary.
- All categories of development are assumed to be new build.
- It is assumed development takes place on green or brown field prepared sites, i.e. no allowance for demolition etc.
- All categories of development include an allowance for External Works inc drainage, internal access roads, utilities connections (but excluding new sub-stations), ancillary open space etc
- Site abnormal and facilitating works have been excluded and are shown separately.

Accessible and Adaptable Dwelling Standards

Costs associated with Nottinghamshire Policy in respect of meeting Category 2 Accessible and Adaptable Dwelling Standards have been considered within the report.

Category 2 dwellings are in essence very similar to Lifetime Homes with a couple of minor enhancements such as step free access, a minimum stair width of 850mm and amendments to WC layouts to ensure no obstructed access.

The design solutions (And therefore cost) of meeting Category 2 standards will vary from site to site and will potentially range from relatively small on a good site with some innovative design to circa 2% on a less favourable site which includes apartments. There is potentially a more significant impact on the cost of apartments due to the requirement for a lift but again this can be minimised through design, the accessible units may be allocated on the ground floor for example thus negating the need for a lift.

Some of the requirements impact on actual size of the dwelling, our costs are provided on a £/m² basis so any increase in dwelling size is automatically picked up within the rate.

For the purpose of the assessment we would recommend an uplift of 2% across the board on all residential costs be applied in order to meet Category 2 standards.

Exclusions

The Order of Cost Study excludes any allowances for the following:

- Value Added Tax
- Finance Charges
- Unknown abnormal ground conditions including:
 - Ground stabilisation/retention
 - Dewatering
 - Obstructions
 - Contamination
 - Bombs, explosives and the like
 - Methane production
- Removal of asbestos
- Surveys and subsequent works required as a result including:
 - Asbestos; traffic impact assessment; existing buildings
 - Topographical; drainage/CCTV; archaeological
 - Subtronic
- Furniture, fittings and equipment
- Aftercare and maintenance
- Listed Building Consents
- Service diversions/upgrades generally
- Highways works outside the boundary of the site

Detailed Construction Cost Study

Development Type, to achieve Breeam Excellent	Construction Cost £/m ²		
	Min	Max	Average
Residential, 2-5 bed, code 4 Equivalent	877	1,171	1,011
Additional Cost for Accessibility Standards			20
Low Rise Apartments Code 4 Equivalent	1,054	1,362	1,186
Additional Cost for Accessibility Standards			24
Multi Storey Apartments Code 4 Equivalent	1,319	1,939	1,576
Additional Cost for Accessibility Standards			32
Office to residential conversion	542	2,032	1,082
Student Accommodation, ensuite	1,050	1,498	1,335
Student accommodation conversion	931	1,917	1,277
Care Homes	838	1,370	1,185
General Retail, shell finish	583	1,066	760
Food Retail supermarket, shell finish	814	1,260	1,112
Hotels, 2,000m ² mid-range, 3* inc. F&Ftgs	1,570	2,011	1,675
Offices, Cat A fit-out	971	1,431	1,236*
Industrial, general shell finish	393	873	542
Institutional / Community D7 (museums, library, public halls, conference)	1,365	2,551	1,849
Leisure D5 (cinema, bowling alleys, shell)	829	1,025	886**
Agricultural shells	205	886	465
SUI Generis			
Vehicle Repairs	821	1,059	944
Vehicle Showrooms	996	1,165	1,059
Builders Yard	645	1,083	848

Note:

- * Offices, Cat A are based on speculative office development, of cost efficient design
- ** Leisure D5 development is based on shell buildings (bowling alleys, cinemas and the like) and exclude tenant fit-out

On-costs

Professional fees		
- Consultants (excluding legals)	7.25%	
- Surveys etc	<u>0.75%</u>	8%
Planning / Building Regs		
Statutory Fees		0.6%
NHBC / Premier warranty (applies only to Residential and Other Residential)		0.5%
Contingency / Risk Allowance		5%

Abnormal Site Development Costs, Brentwood Area.

**Budget Cost
£/Hectare**

Abnormal Costs, by their very nature, vary greatly between different sites.

Budget figures are given, for typical categories relevant to the study area.

The Budgets are expressed as costs per hectare of development site.

Archaeology

11,000

Typically, Archaeology is addressed by a recording / monitoring brief by a specialist, to satisfy planning conditions.

Intrusive archaeological investigations are exceptional and not allowed for in the budget cost.

Site Specific Access Works

22,000

New road junction and S278 works; allowance for cycle path linking locally with existing

Major off-site highway works not allowed for.

Site Specific Biodiversity Mitigation / Ecology

Allow for LVIA and Ecology surveys and mitigation and enhancement allowance.

22,000

Flood Defence Works

Allowance for raising floor levels above flood level, on relevant sites

28,000

Budget £2,000 per unit x 35 units, apply to 1 in 3 sites.

Utilities, Gas, Electric

Allowance for infrastructure upgrade

90,000

Land Contamination

Heavily contaminated land is not considered, as remediation costs will be reflected in the land sales values

28,000

Allow for remediation/removal from site of isolated areas of spoil with elevated levels of contamination

Ground Stability

Allow for raft foundations to dwellings on 25% of sites

Budget £2,200 x 35 units x 25%

20,000