

Public Libraries	
Summary of Comments Received (respondent ref in brackets)	Council's Response
<u>Commercial Development</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribution for commercial development is excessive and represents double counting contrary to tests in Circular 1/97. (27) (3) ▪ Methodology for seeking contributions from commercial development does not appear to be sound enough to justify basing any calculations on it – should wait until new travel to work data is available (23) ▪ No user statistics are provided to support the case. (23) ▪ Contributions to library services need to take into account the fact that the district was a net exporter of labour in 1991. (23) (3) (8) ▪ Link between library use and commercial development is not clear (8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The calculation of contributions from commercial development is based on the number of employees working in West Berkshire who are not also resident. This does not constitute double counting. As the Council has a duty to lend to those who live and work in the District, it is reasonable to seek contributions from commercial development without being contrary to Circular 1/97. ▪ The Council is satisfied that the data relied upon in the methodology represents a conservative estimate. The information will be updated as soon as the latest travel to work data is available. ▪ User statistics are available and can be provided to support the case. ▪ Irrespective of whether the Council was or is a net exporter of labour, the Council has a duty to lend to those who live and work in the district. Residents who work outside the district are still entitled to use the library services in West Berkshire. ▪ Information on library membership indicates that a percentage of members live outside the district. It is reasonable to assume that

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non West Berkshire residents should pay for library membership rather than seeking contributions from commercial development (8) 	<p>a significant number of these people work in West Berkshire. The Council has a statutory duty to lend to those who work in the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A change in legislation would be required to allow West Berkshire to charge for library membership to non-residents. The 1964 Public Libraries Act requires the Council to provide services free to anyone who lives, works or is being educated in the area.
<u>Calculation of Contributions</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Object to blanket formulaic system – contrary to 1/97 (24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each additional dwelling built in West Berkshire will undoubtedly have an impact on existing services and infrastructure. Whilst the impact of a single dwelling will in most cases be material but limited, the cumulative impact of a number of dwellings will impact heavily on the provision of services. The approach taken with respect to the provision of libraries recognises this and seeks to apportion this impact in a manner that is fair and reasonable in line with Circular advice. <p>The capital cost of library provision in West Berkshire is assumed to be constant i.e. it is assumed that one person/dwelling will generate the need for x m² of additional floorspace irrespective of the location of that development. By linking the requirement to the Annual Library Plan – contributions will only be sought where there is a local need that can be directly related to the development proposed. Whilst the calculation of costs may be formulaic, the application is dependent on local circumstances.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Double counting – library funding is levied through both local and national taxation system (24) ▪ Fixtures and fittings should not be included in the calculation – only capital projects (12) (1) ▪ Significant additional financial burden to developers (24) ▪ Average occupancy rate used in formula is too high – should use figure from 2001 census and then kept under review especially if development is phased over a number of years (19) ▪ It cannot be assumed that a new dwelling equates to new library users – most moves are local moves which would not affect patronage of an existing library facility (12) (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While the revenue costs of providing library services should be met by increased council tax collection, the initial one off costs cannot be met in this way and a contribution from developers is sought for service improvements appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. ▪ The Council considers it appropriate to include one off costs such as fixtures and fittings in the calculation as these costs are not met from increased Council tax collection. ▪ It is recognised that contributions towards library services may represent an additional cost to developers. However, by publishing guidance on the level and nature of contributions that may be sought in connection with a development, the developer is in a position to take these additional costs into account when purchasing the land. ▪ The average occupancy rate used in the formula was taken from the 2000 based population projections for West Berkshire. Now that information from the 2001 census is available, the formula can be adjusted to take this into account. In the same way that household size must be kept under review, the capital cost of provision must also be kept under review to take account of inflation. ▪ Irrespective of whether moves are local or not, a new dwelling, with the exception of replacement dwellings, represents an addition to the dwelling stock which will ultimately put pressure on existing facilities in the locality.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of extent to which people move locally should be provided to influence setting of occupancy assumptions (12) (1) ▪ A local library need generation multiplier form new dwellings should be researched and justified (12) (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The occupancy assumptions are based on average household size. The extent to which people move locally is not relevant for reasons stated above. ▪ The National Library Standards are based on the actual population within a specified area, rather than an assessment of need. Average household size is a good indicator of the additional population likely to be generated by a new development.
<u>Other</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy OVS.3 does not mention public libraries therefore there is no link to Local Plan contrary to Government advice (4) ▪ It should be noted that mobile libraries cannot supply the internet links available at main libraries (2) ▪ Agreed (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy OVS.3 includes examples for which financial contributions will be sought, it is not an exhaustive list. Irrespective of this, part (g) does refer to community facilities. ▪ Internet links are currently available in one of the mobile libraries. It is proposed that this service be extended to include other mobile libraries in the future. ▪ Support is noted.