

Guidance

Publish your developer contributions data

When publishing your developer contributions data, follow this guidance on how to format, label and publish the data.

Published 1 September 2019

From:

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#)

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Publish your data

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations and National Planning Policy Framework require all local planning authorities to [publish their developer contributions data](#) on a regular basis and in an agreed format.

Local planning authorities that have received developer contributions must publish, at least annually, an infrastructure funding statement summarising their developer contributions data. This guidance sets out the data format and approach that you should follow when publishing your data and infrastructure funding statements.

The data format and infrastructure funding statements will give policy makers better insights into how developer contributions are supporting new development and local infrastructure. We have designed the data format to cause as little disruption as possible to existing processes.

Please share your feedback on this guidance by filling out a [feedback form](#) or by emailing DigitalLand@communities.gov.uk.

Make your data findable, useable and trustworthy

Developer contributions include section 106 planning obligations, CIL, section 278 agreements and any agreements that either secure funding towards new development, or provide infrastructure as part of any new development. The data on these has a wide range of current and potential uses, including:

- planning land and housing development
- creating new digital services
- giving community members insight into local development and how they can influence it

But for data to be useful it must be easy to find, use, understand and trust. Local planning authorities should ensure that their developer contributions data is all of these by following this specification for how to format, label and publish it. The following guidance gives a high-level overview of the data format and the publication process.

Local authorities should continue to publish section 106 agreements on the planning register. Publishing your developer contributions data in this format will help you fill out your infrastructure funding statement, but does not replace that requirement.

The Digital Land team at the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) are working to support the process of producing an infrastructure funding statement, using the data published in accordance with this guidance. They will update the [Digital Land website](#) with progress on this.

The Digital Land team have also built a test version of a [developer contributions dashboard](#). This is not a live service, but simply a prototype to explore ways the data could be used.

Publishing developer contributions: 3 steps

Planning authorities must publish their developer contributions data once a year but are encouraged to do so as frequently as they can so that datasets are up to date. (Those publishing with third-party software that can semi-automate the process might be able to publish in near real-time, while those publishing manually might choose to only publish quarterly.)

This guidance applies to the publication of developer contributions data going forward – you are not required to republish historical data so that it complies with this guidance.

Publishing is a 3 step process:

1. Create 3 developer contribution CSV files to store the data
2. Upload each of these files to your organisation's website and give them a persistent URL, then clearly link to them from your developer contributions web page
3. Submit the URLs you created in Step 2 to the national register of developer contributions

Step 1: Create your CSV files

To complete step 1 you must be able to create or amend CSV files, for example by using spreadsheet software.

If you are a planning authority using third-party software to manage your developer contributions, ask your vendor if the software can export the data to CSV files as defined in this guidance. Otherwise, use the following instructions.

Developer contributions data must be entered in 3 separate CSV files. A CSV file (or comma separated value file) is a universally recognised file format for storing tabular data in plain text. Storing the data in 3 separate files rather than 1 file reduces duplication and makes the data easier to use and maintain.

We've created a CSV template for each of the 3 files:

- [CSV 1: developer agreements](#)
- [CSV 2: developer agreement contributions](#)
- [CSV 3: developer agreement transactions](#)

If it helps, you can use the above example files and enter your developer contributions data. You must follow the guidelines below, then 'save as .csv file'. You can use software such as Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets or Apple Numbers, as long as they meet the requirements of this guidance.

Each of the CSV files must:

- be named using the convention specified in each section below
- contain certain column headers (written exactly as shown, in lowercase)
- include 1 row of data for each agreement, contribution or transaction (as relevant)
- only contain entries that conform to the constraints described below

[Find out more about creating a CSV file.](#)

Step 2: Update your developer contributions web page

To complete step 2 you must be able to upload the files created in step 1 to your local planning authority's website and edit (or create) your developer contributions web page. If you are not able or authorised to do this, speak to someone who is (this might be the person who updates your local planning authority's brownfield site register or planning application web pages).

Upload each CSV file to your local planning authority's website. Make sure the URL for each CSV file is [persistent](#) (a web address that will not change over time). As an example, Norfolk's local planning authority might use the following persistent addresses (note that these are examples, not live data):

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/developer-agreement>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/developer-agreement-contribution>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/developer-agreement-transaction>

When you upload the files you should keep any older files online – it's important to retain a history of all developer contribution files.

You should then update your local planning authority's developer contributions web page to make the CSV files publicly available. If your website does not have a page on developer contributions, you or someone in the web team will need to create one. We recommend publishing your developer contributions on the same web page as your authority's infrastructure funding statement.

The page must list the persistent URLs as defined above. The URLs must be written out in full. (The URLs should not change. However, if they do, you must tell us.)

Licensing

You must state on your web page that the data is provided under the [Open Government License](#).

Step 3: Submit the URLs you created in Step 2 to the national register of developer contributions

MHCLG will maintain a national register of developer contributions.

Email the persistent URL for each CSV file to DigitalLand@communities.gov.uk and we will add them to the national register. You must tell us if these URLs ever change.

You will soon be able to submit the URLs through an online tool the Digital Land team are developing. When this is ready, the team will make an announcement on their [blog](#) and this guidance will be updated.

If have any questions or feedback, please fill out this [feedback form](#) or email DigitalLand@communities.gov.uk

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