

A County Councils Network spokesman said:

“CCN has always committed to exploring the possibility of a joint agreement with DCN on the tier split. The publication of the consultation and the greater detail on system design allows these discussions to now progress further in the New Year.

“The consultation rightly points out that appetite for change within the sector and the need to decide the objectives of the system; with county and district councils having a vital role to play in promoting growth. Independent evidence produced for CCN has demonstrated a higher tier share for counties can better balance risk and reward, continue to incentivise growth, and crucially, contribute to meeting the demand-led pressures faced by counties.

“CCN’s position remains that there must be a nationally defined minimum tier share as a fall back default position for areas that do not agree locally. The pilot tier shares show there is room for local flexibility, but one off pilot arrangements are different to establishing the long-term principles for council funding.”