

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2024

Report Title	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Spending Allocations For 2024/2025			
Purpose of Report	CIL funding helps to provide for any additional demand placed on local infrastructure created by new housing growth, in accordance with adopted planning policy. Funding allocations for the 2023 application round were recommended to Environment Committee in December 2023, which were unanimously approved. These spend allocations are presented to Strategy and Resources Committee for secondary approval.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) project funding decisions made by Environment Committee according to the attached report, and approve the financial implications of that decision.			
Consultation and Feedback	1. CIL project bids were passed to specialist Council Officers who provided comment on the quality of proposed projects and their ability to meet the approved assessment criteria. 2. An informal Members' information session was conducted through Zoom on 19th October 2023, where representatives from the applicant groups outlined their project proposals. Copies of the bids were also placed on the Members' Hub.			
Report Author	Krista Harris, Senior Community Infrastructure Officer Email: krista.harris@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Options are: 1. Approve the financial implications of the funding decisions made by Environment Committee; or 2. Delay approval of the financial implications of the CIL funding decisions for further internal discussion			
Background Papers	The following papers were made available on the Members' Hub: 1. CIL Strategic Funding Guidance Notes 2024/25 2. Copies of all project bids received 2023			
Appendices	Appendix A – Summary of Funding Recommendations for 2024/25 Appendix B – List of Identified Future Infrastructure Needs Appendix C – CIL Strategic Projects Progress Information Sheet Appendix D – Report to Environment Committee December 2023			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

1.1 Stroud District Council began collecting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies on planning permissions implemented from April 2017. CIL monies are used to help to provide for any additional pressures placed upon local infrastructure by new housing growth.

- 1.2 The Council began its 'Strategic Infrastructure Funding Scheme' in 2019 and has since been operated annually. The 2023 funding round opened to strategic partner organisations in March 2023 and closed in September 2023. The capital project bids were then assessed according to the approved assessment system which is underpinned by adopted planning policy, most importantly the Council's Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).
- 1.3 The recommended spend allocations for next financial year 2024/25 was unanimously approved by Environment Committee in December 2023 as set out in the attached report, given as Appendix D. This report provides all relevant information including the CIL budget available and a summary of individual projects along with amounts recommended for each project.
- 1.4 Appendices A-C are referred to in the Environment Committee Report, and provide a summary of the project recommendations, an illustrative list of some of the known infrastructure projects that may present themselves at future CIL funding rounds, and information on projects that have benefited from CIL funding support in previous years.
- 1.5 This report requests that Strategy and Resources Committee note the funding allocation decision made by Environment Committee and approve the financial implications of that decision.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 Members of Environment Committee unanimously approved the funding recommendations made in the CIL report presented to that Committee on the 7th of December 2023. The CIL fund was being used to invest in a range of infrastructure funding types that would benefit the districts residents, providing new education places, opportunities for sustainable and active travel, and the creation of facilities that promoted access to leisure, health, and economic inclusivity.
- 2.2 In addition to supporting the essential planning policy, Members appreciated how CIL funding was also helping to achieve several other important policy objectives set out in other important adopted council plans. The level of co-operative partnership working with other service providers was also noted.
- 2.3 However, Members also acknowledged that CIL income is limited and will not be sufficient to meet all the district's infrastructure needs arising in the coming years. CIL was only one of a number of funding sources, and that projects must also seek match funding support from other funding avenues. The Council must be prudent with the CIL funds available, prioritising its support for schemes that are identified as being 'critical' or 'essential' within supporting planning policy, and retaining a portion of available funds to help meet identified future infrastructure needs.
- 2.4 Strategy and Resources Committee are asked to approve the financial implications of the funding decisions made by Environment Committee. This is the final stage of the funding allocations process, following which, the project applicants will be notified of the outcome.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report as the CIL budget is already secured. Any additional match funding by SDC would have to be considered as part of a separate report.

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk

3.2 Legal Implications

CIL contributions may only be spent on infrastructure projects in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended). The levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities pursuant to Section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 59 of the Regulations.

The levy can, therefore, be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities. This flexibility gives the Council the ability to choose what infrastructure it needs to deliver the Local Plan. Charging authorities may not use the levy to fund affordable housing.

The levy can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support development.

Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area, and they will decide what infrastructure is needed in line with adopted policy.

One Legal – Martin Evans (Locum Planning Solicitor)

Tel: 01684 272691 Email: legal.services@tewkesbury.gov.uk

3.3 Equality Implications

CIL funding is based on growth and infrastructure requirements set out in the Local Plan, which has been subject to EIA. Consequently, there are no actions in or as a result of this report that will have a negative impact on Equalities or any groups recognised in an EIA.

Members of Environment Committee have previously requested that the very positive equality aspects of CIL investment are acknowledged. Many of the recommended CIL projects will significantly improve access to services and facilities including residents that may be experiencing special needs, isolation or would otherwise be economically or socially excluded.

3.4 Environmental Implications

The recommended projects invest in infrastructure that promise to bring significant positive benefits to the Environment. Bids include facilities that reduce the need for motorised travel, supporting public transport and promoting clean active travel (walking and cycling) and water quality improvement schemes which will also help to address nature recovery.

There are no perceived negative environmental implications that would directly result from supporting any of the projects. Projects that make a positive contribution towards Climate Change adaption and/or mitigation and other environmental considerations are strongly promoted throughout the CIL funding scheme.