

## **CIL Strategic Infrastructure Funding Scheme**

### **Project delivery update**

SDC has been collecting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies on implemented planning permissions since adopting its charging schedule in April 2017. The Council have approved project funding allocations under its Strategic Infrastructure Funding Scheme in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

This information sheet aims to give a brief update on the progress made on delivering those projects from previous approved rounds.

The 2022 funding decisions are made at Environment Committee in December 2022 and Strategy & Resources Committee in February 2023.

#### **2019 project allocations for delivery in 2020-21 financial year**

##### **River Frome Restoration** *(Completed)*

The Severn Estuary performs a vital role for migratory fish, acting as a 'superhighway' linking breeding and spawning grounds. Water barriers built at cloth mills in the district during the industrial revolution created significant difficulties for riverine ecosystems. CIL Funding provided for the detailed designs, consents and construction-ready drawings necessary for the installation of fish passage solutions at four important historic sites; Ryeford Mill, Arundel Mill, Whitminster Mill and Fromebridge Mill. These works formed part of the catchment wide Severn Vale 'waterscape' programme to regenerate biodiversity into these critical freshwater habitats. The CIL investment has helped to secure significant match-funding for the capital delivery phases of these projects as well as engaging local people in associated nature recovery community initiatives.

##### **Rural SuDS** *(Completed)*

More than nine locations across the district, including the Slad Valley, Toadsmoor, Ebley and Painswick, benefitted from a series of natural flood management projects that act together to provide flood alleviation benefit. SDC's Rural SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Team worked with local landowners to create 'leaky dams' that help to slow the flow of flood waters, reduce the movement of silts downstream and create habitat enhancement. Works also included tree planting and earthen bunds which also create additional habitat, carbon reduction, cross slope interception of surface water and create storage.

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**SVP Tree Planting** *(Completed)*

The Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) used the CIL Funding to plant over 7000 trees at key locations across the district, an important aspect of delivering the councils green infrastructure policy objectives. Working in partnership with the Local Authority Tree Fund, The Woodland Trust and Conservation Volunteers, 34 species of native woodland plants and trees were planted, many of which have the potential to cope with a changing climate. One of the key delivery sites was Salmon Springs, where 5 acres of trees were planted with the aim of absorbing carbon and creating habitats for wildlife. Part of SVP's tree planting work will also be the careful monitoring of tree success and survival rates, and to look at and review the anticipated increases in biodiversity created.

**2020 project allocations for delivery in 2021-22 financial year**

**Hardwicke Youth Centre** *(Withdrawn)*

Following the receipt of detailed architect's drawings and costings, Hardwicke Parish Council have decided to not continue with this project as they regretfully felt the costs became unfeasible. The CIL funding allocation has been returned to the Strategic Infrastructure Budget.

**Uley, Cam & Dursley Greenway** *(in progress)*

Overseen by GCC, the feasibility and design study is progressing well and is expected to be completed by March 2023. The work is being undertaken by Atkins 'Active Travel Team' who offer a specialist advisory and design service. They will produce a study that results in an overall view of all road sections of the Greenway route, linking up between Cam and Dursley Station and the Uley Road, whilst developers will deliver on other sections of the Greenway. Having a study that looks at the whole route should enable future funding opportunities to be more targeted.

**Cam & Dursley Rail Station** *(completed)*

Project works are almost all completed, with the final additional parking spaces expected to be created by the end of December 2022. The resulting project works have been extremely well received by rail-users and the wider community. The station now boasts a new cycle shelter, motorcycle parking racks, additional car parking spaces and a host of new pedestrian access improvements. The area has also benefitted from a range of upgraded features such as new barriers, fencing and vegetation clearance that will help to make the area a safer, smarter and a more inviting travel facility to use.

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**Cainscross segregated cycleway** *(in progress)*

The study links with the Gloucester - Stonehouse - Stroud connectivity options, which are also being looked at by GCC as part of their wider 'cycle spine work' and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the area. This in-depth study for Cainscross will identify the specific requirements for detailed design including the impacts on utilities, traffic signals and difficulties around the structure that passes over the culvert. The study is essential for enabling GCC to access further funding opportunities needed to complete the design process (est.300k) and ultimately construct a scheme that will cost over £3 million. SDC's CIL investment to the Cainscross section illustrates local commitment to the area's objectives, which will hopefully be viewed positively by the DfT during the Active Travel Funding Bid assessment taking place early next year.

**Stroud to Nailsworth Cycletrack Upgrade** *(completed)*

Project works were all undertaken to a very high standard and included the re-decking of Birds Crossing footbridge, ramps by the Priory Woodchester, path improvement work between Birds Crossing and Station Road and the installation of an entirely new bridge at Newman-Hender, in Inchbook. This project has been positively received by all and has been widely celebrated in the local press and on social media.

**Frampton Cycle Path** *(in progress)*

Frampton Parish Council continue to work very closely with GCC Highways who will be undertaking the delivery of the physical works. They have employed a design consultant (Vale Consultancy) to complete the surveys and detailed design for the footpath project, this started in October and is progressing well. The Stage 1 Safety Audit and subsequent public engagement period with local residents created some delays to delivery timescales, so construction works have now had to be re-scheduled for the end of 2023.

**Waste Vehicle In-Cab Technology** *(in progress)*

The software solution has now been procured by Ubico, with input from partners across Gloucestershire, including SDC. A company called Yotta has been selected to provide the solution. The software build and integration will be taking place over the next few months, ensuring SDC workflows are reflected accurately. Current expectations are for the new software to be available in test at the start of February 2023 to ensure that SDC can switch off existing arrangements for Apr 2023.

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**2022 project allocations for delivery in 2022-23 financial year**

**Nailsworth Drainage Improvement Scheme *(in progress)***

GCC held a public information event to explain the nature of the planned works along with the pedestrian improvements being delivered at the same time, which was very well attended. Works around the cattle grid area started in September and installation of associated the drainage infrastructure has gone well. The upgrading of drainage at the roundabout end of George Street have begun, along with improvements to the shop front area which will help to reduce the flood risk to those properties. Drainage repairs at Spring Hill to reduce the rate of water flow getting to the Town Centre have also been completed. The next phase will involve upgrading the drainage on Bridge Street to direct surface water into the watercourse and off the road. The programme is running on schedule and is expected to be fully delivered by the end of this year 2022.

**Stroud Outdoor Pool / Lido *(completed)***

The recent Leisure and Wellbeing strategy identified Stratford Park's outdoor pool as key strategic asset for the district and a prime leisure facility for the council to further develop to increase participation in physical activity. The previously unheated pool now uses existing pipework to connect together the indoor and outdoor plant rooms and a 400-kilowatt heat exchanger. This new system better utilises waste heat, where the collected energy now generates an additional 2-3 degrees of heat into the natural spring water pool. The improvements to user comfort in the outdoor pool will be appreciated by both residents and visitors to the park.

**3G Astro turf Pitch, Archway School *(in progress)***

This project is strongly supported by the Councils Playing pitch strategy and is noted to be a great example of a 'sports hub', where it promises to offer a range of sporting activities to the public outside of school hours. The new 3G Astro turf will help to free up playing pitch space which is under increasing public pressure at Stratford Park. Archway school have had several positive meetings with the Football Foundation in recent months and they have now entered into the Football Foundation Framework, working towards its spring 2023 funding application. Site surveys showed that the moving the turf was possible and ensures no net loss of grass. Stroud Athletics have also expressed a keenness to investigate whether a running track could go alongside the pitch. Construction on site is expected to start in summer/autumn 2023.

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