

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>Report Title</b>	COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - SPENDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2023/2024			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	CIL funding helps to provide for any additional demand placed on the local environment and services created by new housing growth, in accordance with adopted planning policy. Infrastructure project bids received in the 2022 funding round were recommended to Environment Committee in December 2022, where they were unanimously approved. The spend allocations detailed within this report are presented to Strategy and Resources Committee for secondary approval.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to:</b> <b>a. note the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding recommendations made by Environment Committee; and</b> <b>b. agree to the individual project funding allocations according to the report below.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	1. CIL bids were passed to Council Officers with specialist knowledge in that subject field, who provided comment on the contents of bids and quality of proposed projects. 2. A Members' information session was conducted through Zoom on 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 where the CIL process was explained, and the contents of this year's project bids were outlined. Copies of the bids and answers to questions raised were placed on the Members Hub.			
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<b>Options</b>	Options are: 1. approve the proposed CIL spending allocations; or 2. amend the proposed CIL spending allocations, or 3. delay the proposed CIL spending allocations for further internal discussion			
<b>Background Papers</b>	The following papers were made available on the Members Hub: 1. CIL Strategic Funding Guidance Notes 2023/24 2. Copies of bids received - 2022 funding application round			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Summary of Funding Recommendations for 2023/24 Appendix B – List of identified future infrastructure needs Appendix C – CIL funding project progress update information sheet			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Stroud District Council has been collecting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments on new housing developments since April 2017. CIL payments are made on most new buildings and conversions on sites other than strategic sites and residential sites within the Stroud Valleys area. CIL is used to help fund the infrastructure that development will ultimately rely on.
- 1.2 Since the Council first started collecting CIL, the 'Strategic Infrastructure' budget has received £1,849,710 (April 2017 to March 2022). Each year, SDC invites partner organisations to bid for CIL funding to support the delivery of capital infrastructure projects. SDC made its first CIL project allocations in 2019; a summary of project progress and delivery for those supported projects is given in Appendix C.
- 1.3 The 2022 bidding round closed in September 2022 and was shortly followed by a Members information session, which provided an opportunity to learn about the projects and to ask officers questions. Members were informed that a CIL folder had been provided on the Members' hub, which contained copies of all the project bids and a paper responding to questions that had been raised.
- 1.4 The recommended funding scheme spend for next financial year 2023/24 was unanimously approved by Environment Committee in December 2022. 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. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The projects that CIL can be spent on are broadly grouped into capital infrastructure items such as education, social infrastructure, transport and strategic flood risk. These are outlined in the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and related Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), copies of which are available on the Council's webpages. Projects must also strongly align with the strategic planning objectives set out in the Council's adopted Local Plan.
- 2.2 The last financial year's (2021/22) CIL income together with amounts purposefully retained from previous years means that SDC have a total available Strategic Infrastructure Budget of £1,126,160 to commit to priority infrastructure projects in this funding round. Projects are assessed according to how strongly they align with planning policy objectives and particularly the evaluations expressed in the IDP where infrastructure items are described as being critical, essential or desirable.
- 2.3 CIL income will not be sufficient to meet all the District's infrastructure needs. Instead, CIL should be viewed as one aspect of a number of infrastructure funding streams available to providers. CIL Strategic funding cannot be used to support current existing funding programmes or deficiencies but instead should help mitigate the impact of new development.
- 2.4 Seven project bids were received in this 2022 funding round and were scrutinised according to the assessment matrix previously approved by Council in December 2018. This focusses on the projects ability to help delivery the priorities in the Council's adopted Local Plan.
- 2.5 Of the bids received, four offered high quality investment and are recommended to receive CIL Funding support as set out below and in Appendix A attached.
  - Berkeley Town Improvement Project (rec. CIL £20,239)
  - Dudbridge to Ryeford Cycle Trail Surface Improvement (rec. CIL £75,000)
  - SGS Stroud College 14-16 Create Centre (toilet provision) (rec. CIL £25,000)
  - Wotton Community Sports Foundation – The New Barn (rec. CIL £75,000)

- 2.6** The Dudbridge Steps feasibility study bid was considered a more appropriate fit to be supported by SDC's Walking & Cycling Budget. This special Council budget will also be match-funding the Berkeley Town Improvement Project and the Cycle Trail resurfacing works.
- 2.7** Two bids were not recommended CIL Funding in the current bid round for the reasons noted below. CIL Officers will continue to work with both organisations to ensure they get appropriate support and advice should they wish to resubmit their projects in future;
- EV Taxi charge points Stroud town. This bid was considered to be insufficiently advanced in its project planning and feasibility phases.
  - Refurbishment of Stroud Fire Station. This bid was withdrawn by the Fire and Rescue Service following a change in staff and their desire to undertake further development work.
- 2.8** Expressions of Interest (EOI) for subsequent funding years were also received; these have been noted in the 'List of identified future infrastructure needs' in Appendix B.
- 2.9** SDC are particularly aware of the funding interest expressed by GCC's Education services for increased school provision. Officers from GCC Education and SDC's CIL Team have met and positively discussed project options and with SDC support. GCC are currently working on developing a funding bid that will conform with the CIL regulatory requirements SDC Officers are also reviewing the CIL Strategic Infrastructure Funding Scheme Guidance Notes and Funding Conditions to allow more flexibility where large or complex strategic infrastructure projects (such as schools) cannot be delivered wholly within the relevant financial year and the submission of early bids.
- 2.10** GCC have also indicated a significant need for highways improvements and sustainable travel provision. The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) also expresses a need to further provide for strategic waste treatment sites, flood risk management infrastructure, social infrastructure, the canal and health and wellbeing services and facilities. The ability for CIL to accommodate forthcoming priority infrastructure projects will be an important consideration in deciding CIL funding allocations and retention for use in future years.
- 2.11** Whilst these future infrastructure needs are supported in principle through the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and Planning Policies, the level of financial requests is likely to be more than can be collected by Stroud District Council's CIL alone. Organisations must understand the limitations and Government intentions of CIL income and the need for them to seek additional funding from other sources.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1** Environment Committee have approved the payments in accordance with the recommendations outlined in Appendix A. The suggested CIL project investment for 2023/24 is **£195,239**, which will come from the secured CIL strategic budget of £1.1 million.
- 3.2** Not all of the available funding is proposed to be spent this year; instead, it is considered prudent to retain £930,921 in recognition of the strategically important projects that have expressed an interest in CIL funding but are not yet in a position to deliver.
- 3.3** Representatives of projects not recommended for funding support in this current funding round are invited to continue to work positively with SDC officers and they may resubmit a revised funding bid in following years. CIL officers will always seek to proactively engage with infrastructure provider organisations, with a view to getting the best results for our Stroud district and its residents.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are financial implications associated with this report. The suggested CIL investment figure of £195,239 can be funded from existing CIL receipts. Any match funding referred to in the body of the report and appendices will need to be brought back through Committee and recommended to Council to approve. This will also have to be reflected in the current Capital Programme

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### **4.2 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.

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### **4.3 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 expressed a view that CIL should in fact be celebrated for its ability to support projects that actively promote equalities. In particular, the Stroud College 14-16 Create Centre directly provides for socially disadvantaged groups, and the accessibility projects which will create safer public realm spaces and greater walking and cycling opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

### **4.4 Environmental Implications**

The recommended projects invest in infrastructure that promise to bring significant positive benefits to the Environment. All of the projects recommended for funding will help to reduce the need for motorised travel and promote improved walking and cycling opportunities.

There are no perceived negative implications that would directly result from supporting any of the projects and environmental considerations are promoted throughout the scheme.