

Report to Cabinet
3 February 2016
Report of Executive Head of Regeneration and Development
Subject Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) –Community
element of CIL 2016-7

Item

10

Purpose

To consider the projects to be funded from the neighbourhood element of CIL in 2016-7 and provide an update on projects approved for funding in 2015-6.

Recommendation:

To agree that the projects listed in Table 2 in paragraph 17 of this report be funded from the neighbourhood element of CIL in 2016-7

Corporate and service priorities:

The report helps to meet the corporate priority “A prosperous city”

Financial Implications:

The table below shows the level of CIL neighbourhood funding collected to date (up to end of December 2015) and forecast for 2015-6 and 2016-7.

Financial Year	Actual £'000	Forecast £'000	TOTAL	Allocated / proposed
2013/14	2	-	2	-
2014/15	24	-	24	-
2015/16	47	117	164	148
2016/17	-	256	256	40
TOTAL	73	373	446	188

In February 2015, Cabinet approved funding for projects to the value of £148K for 2015-6. As it is not possible to predict with any certainty precisely when funds will be received as it is paid when development starts, a cautious approach is recommended and the report proposes allocating £40K for neighbourhood projects in 2016-7.

Ward/s: All

Cabinet member: Councillor Waters- Leader.

Contact officers

Gwyn Jones	01603 212364
Tony Jones	01603 212234
Bob Cronk	01603 212373
Paul Smithson	01603 212603

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The council agreed in July 2013 to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the city. CIL is a means of securing developer contributions to fund essential infrastructure to serve new development and replaces the majority of s.106 contributions.
2. The CIL 2013 amendment regulations require that 15% of CIL revenue received by the charging authority (or 25% where there is a neighbourhood plan) be passed to parish and town councils where development has taken place (up to a limit of £100 per council tax dwelling in any year).
3. In areas without parish councils, communities will still benefit from this incentive. In these cases the charging authority will retain the CIL receipts but should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding.
4. In February 2014, Cabinet agreed a process for engaging with communities before determining how this funding should be used. This was amended and updated to take account of the experience gained in the first year of the process. Cabinet agreed a slightly revised process in July 2015.
5. The regulations require that CIL income is spent on infrastructure as defined by the Town and Country Planning act 2008 (as amended). 'Infrastructure' includes:
 - a) Roads and other transport facilities,
 - b) Flood defences,
 - c) Schools and other educational facilities,
 - d) Medical facilities,
 - e) Sporting and recreational facilities,
 - f) Open spaces.
6. The neighbourhood funding element however can be spent on wider range of things. It can be spent on supporting the development of the area by funding:
 - a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
 - b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. (This does not have to relate to any specific development).

Progress on projects funded in 2015-6.

7. The projects listed below were approved for funding from the community element of CIL in 2015-6. The narrative provides an update on progress to date on each of these :

Community Noticeboards- £10K

Neighbourhood managers identified that the community noticeboards in place around the city, although well-used, were in a generally poor condition and many needed replacement.

There are 16 notice boards at various locations used to promote activities and to signpost service providers, playing a vital role in providing information to the communities. These boards are owned by the council and managed by local volunteers who regularly update the information on them. The community and neighbourhoods see these boards as an important means for getting information without any cost.

The boards are over 20 years old and require a range of repairs, replacement parts and overhaul and do not currently reflect the council's corporate image.

This work is currently underway and is set to be complete during 2015-16.

Britannia Road traffic issues- £20K

The scheme responds to residents' concerns about excessive traffic speeds and the use of the street for 'boy racer circuits'. It will implement traffic calming and parking management measures to ensure traffic complies with 20mph limit, making the street safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Scheme has been designed and is being safety audited during January 2016. Consultation will take place shortly, with delivery planned for 2016-7.

Bignold Road/ Drayton Road junction- £3K

Car sales on the verge facing the Bignold Road and Drayton Road junction led to complaints of poor visibility from local residents, school crossing managers and drivers. This can be simply addressed at minimal cost by the erection of hard wood posts around the grass verge.

Scheme design is underway, implementation will take place in 2016-17.

Natural area/ boundaries improvements George Fox Way and Augustus Hare Drive- £10K

Through liaison with residents, the neighbourhood manager identified an appetite to improve the natural areas and their boundary treatments at this location at a modest cost.

Commencement of work was delayed until January 2016 due to weather delays. Project will be complete early in 2016-17.

Lakenham Way stage 1- £7K

Local residents wished to encourage volunteer involvement and support the development of this route to increase its use, improve bio diversity, and make it

more attractive for schools/community groups . The nearby development at Harford Place increases the potential for greater use of the route.

Ecological studies were completed during 2015; activities and events to take place with schools during 2016 are currently being arranged.

8. Cabinet also agreed that subject to further funding being received during the course of the year, the following projects should be taken forward in 2015-6

City trees- £50K

As street trees have been removed due to age / disease, many have not been replaced. This project will replace 116 trees at various locations around the city.

The sum includes site preparation (removal of any old stumps), planting, tree protection and initial establishment costs relating to watering etc.

Trees, stakes and guards all ordered; all tree will be planted during winter 2015.

Netherwood Green- £48K

There is also a tract of wooded land that runs between Netherwood Green and County Hall which is a former play area. The space could be better managed to deter fly tipping, with potential for development of more formal BMX tracks through the woodland area.

As insufficient funding has been received to date it is proposed to start this project in 2016-7.

9. Cabinet also recommended that further work was carried out on the Heartsease Electric Gym project with a view to funding this project in 2016-7. This would put in place robust outdoor fitness equipment in a public open space, capable of generating power for lighting, charging phones and so on. However the cost of the project is likely to exceed funds available for 2016-7 and with changes to the neighbourhood operating model this project is unlikely to be progressed.
10. A further £1-4K was also agreed to be allocated to complete work on the Lakenham Way project in 2016-7. Lakenham Way phase 1 is to be completed within 2016-17 with activities and engagement with local schools. Future activity will be included through development of the Yellow Pedalway, it is not anticipated at this point that additional CIL will be required.

Neighbourhood CIL funding available for 2016-7.

11. Table 1 shows the amount of funding received to date and forecast to be received over the next year:

Table 1: Forecast CIL neighbourhood funding for Norwich

Financial Year	Actual £'000	Forecast £'000	TOTAL	Allocated / proposed
2013/14	2	-	2	-
2014/15	24	-	24	-
2015/16	47	117	164	148
2016/17	-	256	256	40
TOTAL	73	373	446	188

12. It is not possible to predict with any certainty precisely when CIL income will be received as it is paid as development commences. On the basis of the level of CIL income forecast to be available before the start of 2016-7 and the commitments made in 2015, it is recommended that a maximum of £40K is allocated for expenditure for 2015-6.

Projects proposed for use of community element of CIL in 2016-7

13. The process agreed by Cabinet for determining the priorities for the use of the community element of CIL funding has been followed based on existing mechanisms for community engagement. This has been carried out in the context of the development of the council's capital budget.

14. A number of projects have been suggested through these processes. The relative priority of projects has been assessed, recognising that CIL is only one of a number of possible sources of funding available. Projects must also meet the requirements of the CIL regulations. The projects have all been assessed against the prioritisation criteria previously agreed by Cabinet :

- Impact (the outcomes that will be achieved from the proposed project);
- Deliverability (are there any constraints to implementing the project in the proposed timescale); and
- Funding (availability of other funds, appropriateness of use of CIL, availability of sufficient CIL funding to cover the cost).

15. Some projects suggested are too large to be taken forward with the CIL funding available in 2016-7 but could be considered in future years.

16. The experience in delivering CIL funded projects in 2015-6 has shown that projects may take some time to develop with the community through initial feasibility and design stages. It is important therefore to be realistic about timescales for delivery and in many instances funding for feasibility and design work may be more appropriate in the first year with delivery in subsequent years.

17. The table below provides a brief description of projects recommended to be taken forward using CIL neighbourhood funding in 2016-7

Table 2: Brief description proposed CIL neighbourhood funded projects recommended for funding in 2016-7

Project	Description	Community involvement	Proposed allocation	Deliverability	Impact
Ketts Heights	Works to improve and repair site to encourage increased public use and to create a pedestrian link between Gas Hill / Ketts Hill). £10K is for feasibility work and that the friends group will then seeks funds eg HLF to cover costs of implementation. TOTAL COST likely to exceed £60K	The local community has taken the lead in proposing the enhancement of Kett's Heights, and a Friends group has recently formed. The Norwich Society is also supportive. Strong strategic links (housing growth at Rosary Road, development of Thorpe wooded ridge).	£10,000 This allocation is for feasibility work, funding for implementation (c50k) to be accessed by Friends group from HLF and other sources.	The local community has taken the lead in proposing the enhancement of Kett's Heights, and a Friends group has recently formed. The Norwich Society is also supportive.	Open up viewpoint at summit, repair and resurface paths, Repair fencing; Provide new interpretation board and entrance sign; Repair & stabilise chapel ruins, and refurbish Armada Beacon; Woodland management
20 acre wood (W Earlham)	The wood is a significant piece of local green space and is in need of investment to improve access, biodiversity and to control future expenditure on management. Funding will support this. (total cost 79,000)	Friends group was formed in 2013 following a series of community events and walkabouts by the west neighbourhood team. The group is keen to apply for local nature reserve status for the wood and the management plan and other CIL funded works will be a major part in progressing this. The community wishes to duplicate the success of the Friends of Marlpit Wood group reducing flytipping and improving perception of the wood.	£10,000 Allocation will permit delivery of key works, balance (c70k) to be accessed by Friends group from other sources.	Supported by Friends group, ready to deliver initial works.	Supports further development of Friends group; supports site's proposed designation as a local nature reserve

Chapel Break play area	Improvements to make play area more user-friendly and safer. Using s.106 funds from Chapelbreak. (total cost 6,000) The council would reduce its grounds maintenance budget marginally by reducing the amount of litter requiring clearance. Improving setting of the community centre increases its potential to earn income.	Project was originated by the community centre, who hope that clearing undergrowth it will reduce the incidence of litter and vandalism.	£4,000, matched with £2,000 s106	Ready to deliver if project is funded.	Removal of shrubs; Extension of the bark area will enable parents to see children using the play area and improve perception of safety.
Eaton Green Play Area	Improvements to existing play area- to be determined following consultation with community as part of the project. (total cost 40,000) Uses s.106 contributions from the Eaton neighbourhood - there are unlikely to be any additional play funds originating from S.106 agreements in that area of the city.	Strong community involvement – a group formed in order to raise funds from external sources. Neighbourhood CIL funding will therefore be matched with a further 20k.	£4,000, matched by £12,000 s106 (plus £20K s.106 for future maintenance..	Strong community support, supported by Friends group with a track record of securing external funding. Ready to deliver.	Improved range of play experience and quality of provision.
Community Enabling	Local champions to come forward with proposals for improving their area, thereby taking ownership of local issues.	Appetite for delivery from local community. Supports local ownership of local issues.	£12,000	Appetite for delivery from local community.	Supports community taking on local ownership of local issues.
			£40,000 total		

Next steps

18. The total amount of CIL neighbourhood funding committed for 2016-7 will be included in the Council's capital programme.
19. Feedback will be provided to communities and ward members involved with the engagement process following the Cabinet decision.
20. The process will continue to be evaluated so that any necessary refinements can be made in future years.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report

Detailed guidance to help with completing the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	3 February 2016
Head of service:	Andy Watt
Report subject:	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) –Community element of CIL 2016-76
Date assessed:	16 December 2015
Description:	

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Admin fee can be covered by CIL income
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects
Financial inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL will provide income for new infrastructure projects
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL income may benefit transportation provision
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIL income may provide improvements to the natural and built environment
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment
Positive
CIL income will provide benefits to local communities and help to mitigate the impact of development.
Negative
There is no negative impact
Neutral
Issues