

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING IN HIGH WYCOMBE UNPARISHED WARDS

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Wards affected: High Wycombe unparished wards

PROPOSED DECISION

The Committee is asked to note that £200,000 will be available from the local allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding in the unparished wards for financial year 2015/16. Members should put forward suggestions of schemes for CIL funding by 8 August 2014.

Corporate Implications

1. The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is provided for by Part 11 of the Planning Act 2008 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended). After a public examination, the Wycombe CIL Charging Schedule was adopted at Full Council on 1 October 2012 and came into effect on 1 November 2012.
2. The District Council is the charging and collecting authority for CIL. 15% of the funds raised are passed to relevant parish councils. As per the adopted CIL and Planning Obligations Funding Decision Protocol, the High Wycombe Town Committee will make a recommendation to Cabinet annually on the use of the local allocation in the unparished wards.

Executive Summary

3. The Committee is advised that there will be £200,000 CIL funding available for infrastructure improvements in 2015/16 that the Committee will be asked to recommend the use of at its 16 September 2014 meeting. This will be followed by an autumn consultation on overall draft CIL and S106 funding programmes. Members should put forward initial suggestions for schemes by 8 August 2014.

Sustainable Community Strategy / Council Priorities - Implications

4. Effective use of CIL and planning obligations will ensure the provision of improved infrastructure to support the development of the area. This contributes to the broad themes of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, notably a thriving economy, sustainable environment and cohesive and strong communities.

Background and Issues

5. As set out in the adopted Funding Decision Protocol in the unparished area of the district; although the High Wycombe Town Committee is asked to make recommendations on the use of the 15% local allocation of CIL funds in the unparished area.

6. It is anticipated the Committee will be asked to recommend the use of £200,000 CIL funding for the implementation of projects in the 2015/16 financial year.
7. Suggestions for the use of these funds should be submitted to the Wycombe District Council Infrastructure Officer (Gerard Coll) by 8 August 2014 so they can be collated and initially assessed against the funding available. Prior consultation should be undertaken with relevant service providers to confirm the projects can be implemented and are supported.
8. At its 5 November 2013 meeting the Committee resolved to recommend to fund two community centre projects in the Disraeli ward for the current financial year. These two projects are the fit out of the Bellfield House community facility and a contribution towards the upgrade of the Pastures Church. Other projects put forward that were not recommended for funding by the Committee because of the limited funds available and implementation timescales where a new community facility at the former de la rue site and a new High Wycombe cemetery.

Options

9. As set out above, suggestions for the use of these funds should be submitted to the Wycombe District Council Infrastructure Officer by 8 August 2014 so they can be collated and initially assessed against the funding available.

Conclusions

10. The Committee are asked to note that £200,000 CIL funding will be available for the Committee to recommend the use of for infrastructure improvements in the 2015/16 financial year. Suggestions from Members on the use of these funds should be submitted by 8 August 2014. Bids put forward from service providers and other stakeholders will also be shared with the Committee.

Next Steps

11. Based on the submissions received from Members and service providers a report will be brought to the 16 September 2014 meeting of the Town Committee seeking recommendations on the use of these funds to be put forward for consultation and a decision by Cabinet on the release of funds.

Background Papers

Adopted CIL and Planning Obligations Funding Decision Protocol