

## **HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING STRATEGY**

**Chairman of the Committee:** Councillor T Green

**Wards Affected:** Abbey, Booker & Cressex, Bowerdean, Disraeli, Micklefield, Oakridge & Castlefield, Ryemead, Sands, Terriers & Amersham Hill, Totteridge

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### **PROPOSED DECISION**

That:

- (i) the Committee considers whether it wishes to establish a working group to work with officers in producing a HWTC CIL Funding Strategy to be approved by Cabinet;
- (ii) In the event the Committee wishes to establish a working group, the proposed terms of reference for the group, as set out in paragraph 10 below, be agreed; and
- (iii) In the event the Committee wishes to establish a working group, it is asked to nominate up to eight Members to form the group.

### **Reason for Decision**

To invite the Committee to consider whether or not it wishes to establish a working group to produce a 3 year HWTC CIL funding strategy that will set out a range projects that the Committee will recommend funding for through the CIL local allocation collected from developments in the unparished areas.

### **Corporate Implications**

1. The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy 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 Council adopted the Wycombe CIL Charging Schedule on 1 November 2012.
2. The District Council is the charging and collecting authority for CIL. A total of 15% of the funds raised must be passed to relevant parish councils. As per the adopted CIL and Planning Obligations Funding Decision Protocol, the High Wycombe Town Committee makes a recommendation to Cabinet annually on the use of the local allocation in the unparished wards.
3. Based on the projections of CIL income likely to be received from developments in High Wycombe, the 15% local allocation will amount to between £200,000 and £300,000 annually.

## Executive Summary

4. In order that more structured decisions can be made by the Committee on what infrastructure projects they wish to recommend funding from the CIL local allocation over the next number of years, the Cabinet Member for Planning has requested that the Committee develop and put forward to Cabinet for approval a HWTC CIL Funding Strategy to inform decisions over the next number of years.

## Sustainable Community Strategy / Council Priorities - Implications

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

## Background and Issues

6. The CIL Regulations impose a duty on the Council to pass 15% of CIL funds directly to the relevant parish or town council raised from developments in their areas. This is known as the "local allocation." Cabinet have previously resolved in the adopted CIL & Planning Obligations Funding Decision Protocol that the Town Committee is the appropriate forum in the unparished areas to make recommendations annually on the use of the 15% funds which is tantamount to the local allocation.
7. For financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 after recommendations from the Town Committee, Cabinet agreed the release of funding for a number of projects. These include:

Project	Amount allocated	Progress
Bellfield House community facility	£50,000	Project completed
Feasibility and detailed design work for a proposed new community facility at the Pastures Church in Disraeli	£65,000	Detailed design underway
Re-opening of the Pauls Row Toilets	£30,000	Tenders have been received for the work and due to get underway in Q3
Frogmoor regeneration	£70,000	Scheme for revised layout and parking is due to get underway in Q3. Scheme for café, container shops and play areas is currently on hold.
Refurbishment of the Guildhall kitchen	£15,000	Site visits have been undertaken to scope extent and costs of work
Community notice boards	£15,000	Project officer appointed and contact will be made with ward

		Members to discuss possible locations for notice boards
Feasibility study for new community building at Shelley Road Recreation Ground	£20,000	Resident survey published to garner views on new facilities at the recreation ground.

8. The Cabinet Member for Planning has requested that the HWTC agree a longer term strategy for the range of projects they may wish to see implemented through the CIL local allocation funding that is based on close working with the relevant service providers who would have responsibility to deliver the schemes and a strategy that is based on the broad range of approved plans and strategies already adopted. A HWTC CIL funding strategy will also mean that the service providers will be in a better position to resource the delivery of projects.
9. It is the intention that a small group of Members, nominated by the Committee will work with officers to develop a HWTC CIL Funding Strategy, to be put forward to a meeting of the full Committee meeting for approval. The strategy will then be presented to Cabinet at their February or March 2016 meeting for approval.
10. At the time of agreeing the CIL funding strategy delegated authority will be sought from Cabinet to relevant Cabinet Members and WDC heads of service to expend CIL local allocation funds when implementing projects agreed by the Town Committee. There will be regular reporting to the Town Committee in tandem with this and to update the strategy where necessary.

### **HWTC CIL Working Group Draft Terms of Reference**

11. The draft terms of reference of the working group are as follows:
  - The working group be established for the purpose of producing a HWTC CIL funding strategy that will set out the priorities and range of projects that the HWTC will wish to support using the local allocation of CIL funding collected from developments in the unparished wards.
  - Membership of the working group to be a maximum of 8 members from within High Wycombe Town Committee.
  - The working group be chaired by the Chairman of the High Wycombe Town Committee.
  - Meetings of the working group be held as and when required.
  - Meetings of the group not be open to the public, and be supported by representatives from Community, Planning, Facilities, Property and Finance.
  - The working group may wish to set criteria on the types or costs of projects that they wish to support

- The schemes put forward in the strategy may also be part funded through HWTC special expenses, existing S106 funding or other funding to enable maximum benefits to be achieved.
- The first meeting of the group will receive a brief summary from Community and Planning officers on levels of funding available and potential projects that the Committee may wish to support based on the recommendations from current and forthcoming strategies and plans e.g. Community Facilities Strategy; Sports Facility Strategy; Tree Planting Strategy.
- If the HWTC wish to use CIL funding to implement projects where they or the District Council are not the service provider, e.g. highway works, then confirmation must be sought from Bucks County Council that it supports implementation of the works, and in appropriate cases would implement.
- Recommendations and a draft HWTC CIL Funding Strategy will be presented to the November meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee. The Town Committee will then consider the recommendations, and decide to accept, reject or amend them before the final strategy is presented to Cabinet for approval.

### **Options**

12. The Committee may decide not to support the establishment of a working group to develop a HWTC CIL Funding Strategy.

### **Conclusions**

13. The Committee is invited to nominate up to eight Members to establish a new HWTC CIL working group to work with offices in developing a HWTC CIL funding strategy to be presented at the November meeting of the Committee and then to Cabinet for approval.
14. Developing a HWTC CIL funding strategy will enable decisions on funding to be made that have the support of the service area responsible for delivery and gaining strategy approval from Cabinet and delegated authority to Service heads for delivery, will mean that projects can be implemented flexibly over a 3 to 4 year period without the need to revert to Cabinet for the approval of the release of funds.

### **Next Steps**

15. If a decision is made to establish an informal working group, Members are invited to express an interest to serve on the group, and the date of the group's first meeting will be set up accordingly.

### **Background Papers**

None.