

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING STRATEGY

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Wards affected: High Wycombe unparished wards

PROPOSED DECISION

The Committee is asked to agree the draft 2016 to 2018 High Wycombe Town Committee Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Strategy attached at Appendix A for submission to Cabinet for formal approval.

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.
3. It is estimated that there will be between £600,000 to £1m local allocation CIL income received over the next three years in the unparished area.

Executive Summary

4. Following deliberations by the CIL working group, the Committee are being asked to agree a three year High Wycombe Town Committee (HWTC) CIL Funding Strategy that sets out a range of prioritised projects to be funded from 15% of CIL collected from CIL liable developments in High Wycombe. The Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval with delegated authority sought to relevant service heads to and deliver the identified projects using CIL funds.

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 the last two financial years Cabinet have approved funding for a number of schemes recommended by the HWTC to be funded from the CIL local allocation. 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.
8. It was agreed at the 15 September 2015 meeting of the Committee to form a CIL Working Group to work with officers in producing a HWTC CIL Funding Strategy. The Membership of the Group is as follows – Cllr Green (Chairman); Cllr Knight; Cllr Wassell; Cllr M Hussain; Cllr Ahmed; Cllr Farmer; Cllr Pearce; Cllr SK Raja; Cllr Hill.
9. The first meeting of the Working Group received a briefing paper from officers on levels of funding available and a list of potential projects that the Committee may have wished to support based on recommendations from current and forthcoming strategies and plans. The group were informed that between £600,000 to £1m will be available over the next three years. The working group rejected a number of schemes put forward, requested further information on other schemes and Members also suggested other schemes.
10. The Working Group met for the second time on 15 October 2015. Given the slight uncertainty over the levels of funding that will be received over the next number of years (as it depends on development activity in the unparished area), and reflecting the priorities of the Committee, the agreed way forward was for the Working Group to agree to a prioritised list of projects they wish to see implemented.
11. The suggested way forward is that a primary list of projects is prioritised for implementation with the first £600,000 that is received. Projects on a secondary list may be implemented if and when funds in excess of £600,000 are received over the next three years.
12. The proposed primary and secondary list of projects is set out in the draft strategy at Appendix A.

Options

13. The Committee have the option to not agree the proposed HWTC CIL Funding Strategy.

Conclusions

14. The Committee are asked to agree the proposed HWTC CIL Funding Strategy at Appendix A put forward by the CIL Working Group. This will enable projects

supported by the Committee to be resourced and delivered over the next number of years.

Next Steps

15. Subject to approval of the Committee, the proposed HWTC CIL Funding Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for formal approval. Delegated authority will be sought to respective Heads of Service to implement the identified projects using CIL funds.
16. Regular reports will be provided to the Committee on the progress in implementing the identified projects and whether any changes to the Strategy are recommended.