



# Report to High Wycombe Town Committee

**Date:** 22 September 2020

**Title:** Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Local Allocation Update Report

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## Summary:

**This report provides a summary of anticipated income, funds collected and funds allocated in 2019 and 2020 and provides an update on projects to which the Town Committee has allocated funds.**

## 1. Background

1.1 In previous years the High Wycombe Town Committee has recommended projects to Cabinet to be funded from the 15% CIL Local Allocation collected within the unparished area of High Wycombe. The Chairman of the Committee has asked for an update on the CIL local allocation and projects funded by the Committee.

## 2. Update on projects

2.1 At the January 2019 High Wycombe Town Committee meeting the local allocation of CIL to the following projects was agreed:

- River Wye Interpretation and Information Boards (£10,000)
- Bull Lane Service Yard Gates (£15,000)
- East Wycombe Panoramic Walkway (£35,000)
- Local Centres and Parking Pressures Project (£100,000 additional funding total award £240,000)
- Queensway Cemetery project (£86,000 was allocated, additional to funds previously allocated – see below for further detail).
- Total £246,000

## 3. Project Updates

3.1 The River Wye Interpretation and Information boards project is led by Mike Overall of the Revive the Wye group; it aims to install these along key parts of the River Wye

in the unparished area. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by March 2021.

- 3.2 The Bull Lane Service Yard Gates project has been taken forward by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour, fly tipping etc within the vicinity of Bull Lane. Match funding has been sought from local businesses and in particular Travelodge. Although there has been support from the local Travelodge team, this has not been sufficient to make funding available and this project has not been able to progress without additional funding. The Anti-Social Behaviour team are investigating funding from other sources to progress the project.
- 3.3 The East Wycombe Panoramic Walkway project is being delivered via the Transport Strategy Team. Due to the limited resources available this project has not yet progressed. However, there is potential to progress this project this financial year, subject to additional resource being made available within the Transport Strategy Team.
- 3.4 The Local Centres project was previously awarded £140,000 in March 2017 by the High Wycombe Town Committee. In January 2019 a further £100,000 was awarded to the project bringing the total budget to £240,000 and its remit was extended to address local parking pressures. Some initial design works and investigations were carried out around the Arnison Avenue and Totteridge Road shopping areas at a cost of £15,000 but these designs were not progressed due to the estimated cost of the works. There remains £225,000 available within this project budget.
- 3.5 Due to the limited project resources available local members were 'invited to lead on identifying the scope for external funding to contribute to low cost local shopping centre improvements and parking problem areas and any potential external funding.' A proposal for parking management/road safety measures in Greenhill and Kingshill Road has been identified by a local member and this is with Transport for Buckinghamshire to provide a quotation for the cost of the work.
- 3.6 Work started on the cemetery in April 2020 and the build has progressed well. The reception building has been constructed and is currently being fitted out. The site roads within the cemetery are being formed and nearing completion. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in this financial year.
- 3.7 In March 2017, HWTC and Cabinet approved the build of a new Cemetery at Penn Road and a total project cost of £1,679,790. A contribution of £404,000 from the Special Expense Reserve was approved by the March 2017 Cabinet to partially fund phase 1 of the new Cemetery. £800,000 of local allocation CIL funding was agreed by Cabinet in February 2017 and a further £86k agreed in February 2019. The cost of the project increased from £1,679,790 to £1,933,000 and was approved by the February 2020 Cabinet. Funding of £143,000 from the Special Expense Reserve and £500,000 of CIL funding were approved by February 2020 HWTC and Cabinet. Spend in 2018/19 was £95,000 and in 19/20 there was a further £99,000

spend which was funded from the local CIL allocation. Total funding for the new cemetery agreed from Special Expenses earmarked reserve totals £547,000 and is forecast to be spent in full in 2020/21.

#### 4. Financial Update

4.1 The table below sets out the CIL Local Allocation income for 2019/20 and the minimum anticipated funds available for 2020/21.

	Opening Balance	Income	Spend	Forecast spend	Committed	Allocations (new)	Closing Balance
2019/20	1119	254	-131		-705	-736	1242
2020/21	1242	37.5	0	-1273	166		6.5

##### Note

Estimate of minimum income and closing balance for 2020/21 is as of 26 August 2020.

4.2 The closing balance above does not take into account existing commitments (which total £166,000). Demand notices have been issued for c£250,000 in the unparished area, of which the local allocation will be 15%. However, there is considerable uncertainty around further CIL income to be received this financial year given covid-19 related delays on development starts, deferrals of payment and the potential for continued economic impacts.

4.3 At the start of the year it was estimated that CIL local allocation income would be around £688,000. CIL local allocation Income received to date is well below the trend that would be expected to achieve this and, along with CIL receipts generally, is expected to be substantially less than this by year end.

4.4 While it is anticipated that CIL receipts will fully cover the existing allocations that have been made for 2020/21, in view of the outstanding allocations and uncertainty over income this financial year, there are currently no new CIL local allocation funds to allocate.