

**Annex A****Woking Joint Committee  
13 March 2019  
Open Public Question Time****COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

The following questions were submitted by email prior to the meeting and were answered during the open forum.

The questions were submitted by Stewart Dick, Chair, Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents' Association, Wade Pollard, Chair of West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum and Geoff Geaves, Chair, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum.

**Questions from the Byfleets****Question 1:**

We welcome the paper from Ernest Amoako - it is a good framework for moving forward. However we are surprised and indeed disappointed that it is not a draft for discussion but is a policy paper for agreement. The Agenda states that the Paper is a report - somewhat different from a submission for agreement. In addition to the below questions, we believe that greater detail and clarity are required for example on the consultation process and the reporting ambitions.

**Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

The Joint Committee has informally discussed this matter in detail. The overwhelming view of local residents is that a decision must be made as quickly as possible to set the framework for managing the CIL money. It is therefore appropriate that the Joint Committee is acting accordingly.

If this question relates to the consultation that Ward Councillors has to undertake to identify priority projects, this is a matter for the relevant Councillors to agree at the Ward or Neighbourhood Area level. The briefing that Members will receive is likely to include various ways to go about this.

**Question 2:**

*Paragraph 2.3 stating what CIL receipts can be used for*

We believe that paragraph 2.3 is lacking in detail. The legislative definition should be quoted and the definition published on the Woking Borough Council webpage.

*Paragraphs 1.6 and 2.2 Role of Ward and County Councillors*

It is not clear which Councillors nor indeed how many Councillors will be involved in the decision chain. We would suggest one Ward Councillor and one County Councillor who sits on the Woking Joint Committee.

**Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

Paragraph 2.3 is precisely the legislative definition. However, we can easily add the Core Strategy's definition of infrastructure to the webpage.

All Ward Borough Councillors and County Divisional Councillors for the respective Wards or Neighbourhood Areas are expected and encouraged to be involved. In this

## ITEM 4

regard, the Joint Committee is not intending to prescribe or recommend that only one Ward Borough Councillor and one County Divisional Councillor for each Ward or Neighbourhood Area should be involved. If the respective Councillors agree to delegate responsibility to individual Councillors, that is a matter to be determined by them

### **Question 3:**

#### *Paragraph 2.6 and Paragraph 6.3, Management of projects*

We believe that the main involvement of the Community in the expenditure of CIL is the selection of projects and the decision re priorities. It is not for the Community then to manage the projects nor for Councillors to provide oversight and have tight control. The skill base is not there. It is for WBC to take the contract in house and manage it as they would any other project.

### **Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

The whole ethos of the Government's proposal is to pass on a proportion of the CIL income to local communities to use to address the impacts of development on local infrastructure. In this regard, it is not intended that the Council will take on the commitment as suggested. The Council would not have the necessary resources at this stage within the existing Service Plan budgets to undertake such commitment. If the Joint Committee wish to refer the matter to the Executive of the Council to decide, I will seek to facilitate that. (The Joint Committee agreed to implement the process as recommended and monitor and review it in 12 months time).

### **Questions from the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum**

#### **Question 4:**

Paragraph 1.6 - is it just those ward councillors who are on the joint committee, or all ward councillors.

### **Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

As before, the reference to Ward Councillors in this context refers to all the Ward Borough Councillors and the County Divisional Councillors representing the Ward.

#### **Question 5:**

Paragraph 2.3 Please can the council have on its website a CIL page that includes the definition of infrastructure

### **Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

The Council's website already has a web-page on CIL and as above, we will add the Core Strategy's definition of infrastructure to this.

#### **Question 6:**

Paragraph 2.9 just a clarification of the word 'by' - if we wanted to instruct a contractor to make some planters in April, at present all we will be able to do is tell the contractor that they will be paid by 28 October. We think this is too long and we won't be able to get anyone to do the work.

**Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

'By' in this context means on or before the specified dates. The prescribed dates are in accordance with the CIL Regulations. The intention to specify the 'by' date is to avoid delays in the payment of the money by the Council.

The Chair emphasised that the Council always seek to make payments on time and in an efficient manner.

**Question 7:**

Paragraph 2.10 - monthly budget reports, when can we expect the first of the updates please?

**Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

Subject to the Joint Committee approving the recommendations of the report, the first of the updates will be provided to all Councillors by the end of April 2019 and thereafter, by the end of each month.

**Question 8:**

Para 2.11 Could the training please be extended to members of the neighbourhood forums.

**Response from Ernest Amoako, WBC**

The Joint Committee agreed to make the training available to the various Neighbourhood Forums but this will be organised separately.

**Question 9: Marion Melcher, Footpath Officer,**

I refer to footpath 24 that crosses the road at Sopwith Drive, Brooklands across the boundary into Elmbridge and gives access to the play area. This has been subject to a petition that was taken at the Elmbridge Joint Committee in November 2018. Can I ask: Are all the Committee Members aware of the petition? Are all the Committee Members aware of the dangers in this area? When will a highways assessment be undertaken in this area? What area will the assessment cover? The Committees are supposed to be joined up but what actions are being taken to liaise and join up with the neighbouring area of Elmbridge on this matter?

**Response from the Chair**

I agree that this case is complicated by the fact that it falls onto the boundary. The Joint Committees join up Surrey County Council and the District / Borough Councils, but we do need to look at how the Committees deal with cross boundary issues.

**Response from Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager**

This petition was raised at Elmbridge committee and Members are aware of this. We do have a list of priorities in Woking and we have to prioritise these based on public safety and deliverability. The petition responses are not just dealt with by the Committees, but by the teams of Officers and the 2 area highways managers have liaised on this. Some cross boundary issues can cause friction as to who should fund the works, but we do work together and we are looking to see if this issue can be addressed alongside works in Elmbridge.

**Question 10: Miles Harvey, Mount Hermon**

Does CIL money have a time limit to spend money?

**Answer from Ernest Amoako**

Working Borough Council will hold all the CIL money and there is no time limit.

**Question 11: Bob Shatwell, local resident**

I think more could be done to publicise the Committee meetings and all residents associations could be informed. I am concerned that the Surrey Half Marathon, discussed at the last meeting brings everything to a halt once a year, as we cannot get in or out. Could I suggest that alternative routes are used each year in order that the same residents are not inconvenienced each time. Also, when Willow Reach was developed we were assured that Westfield Avenue would be resurfaced by the developer but this has not been done.

**Answer from the Chair**

We advertise all the meetings on our website and social media and we are now taking them out into the community to make them more accessible. We will look at what we can do to make more of the residents associations aware of items of interest.

I will ask the organiser of the Surrey Half Marathon whether alternative routes could be considered.

**Answer from Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager**

I am unsure of the details on Willow Reach or how this was promised or prioritised so will have to answer this outside of the meeting.

**Question 12: Deborah Hughes, Councillor**

I welcome the CIL report and framework but am surprised that this did not come to full council for consultation.

**Answer from the Chair**

Council gave CIL to the Joint Committee and we will be providing training for all Councillors and, as mentioned above, to Neighbourhood Forums as well.