

JOINT COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2020

## REPORT ON NCIL (NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRA STRUCTURE LEVY)

### Executive Summary

This report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sought to find out why the NCIL monies were not being utilised and to see if simplification and fast tracking of the process would help to expedite this. Recommendations are within the report and the Joint Committee is asked to consider these and advise accordingly.

### Recommendations

The Joint Committee is requested to:

- (i) Advise on the feasibility of the recommendations within the report
- (ii) Consider the recommendations for improvement of the process and implementation
- (iii) Promote the NCIL process to Councillors

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.
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**Background Papers:** None.

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- 1.0 This item was brought to O&S for discussion following frustration and concern that the local element of the CIL (NCIL- Neighbourhood CIL) money was not being utilised in the wards.
- 1.1 Mr Amoako sends out monthly updates on this allocations which have accumulated to each ward for all Councillors. Despite this and the accumulation of £4,543,834 out of an anticipated £8.5 million expected total to date amounts to only a few benches that are in the pipeline for the utilisation of this money in the Byfleet and one other ward.
- 1.2 The aim in O&S was to promote a discussion on the process, to identify and reasons why this NCIL was not being used and to suggest ways of expediting its utilisation.
- 1.3 Mr Amoako presented on the CIL and the process as it exists as determined by the Woking Joint Committee. This paper is therefore written for this Joint committee by way of an update and providing suggestions for increased ease of implementation. It is noted that in its meeting in March 2019 the Joint Committee committed to review the scheme post monitoring for the first year. It is perhaps timely that this paper is presented now prior to this review.
- 1.4 The O&S committee requested that the existing process be presented in an easy to use flow chart on the process for Councillors and Resident groups to guide them through the process. Mr Amoako offered to take this forward the latest draft of this is attached to this paper. However it should be noted that this flow chart is of the existing process and would need updating following any review. It was pointed out that local councillors need to be proactive in engaging with their resident groups on where the money could be best used and to take this forwards.
- 1.5 The O&S committee would be pleased if the Woking Joint Committee would consider these suggestions and recommendations at their next meeting and advise accordingly on a simplified process going forwards.

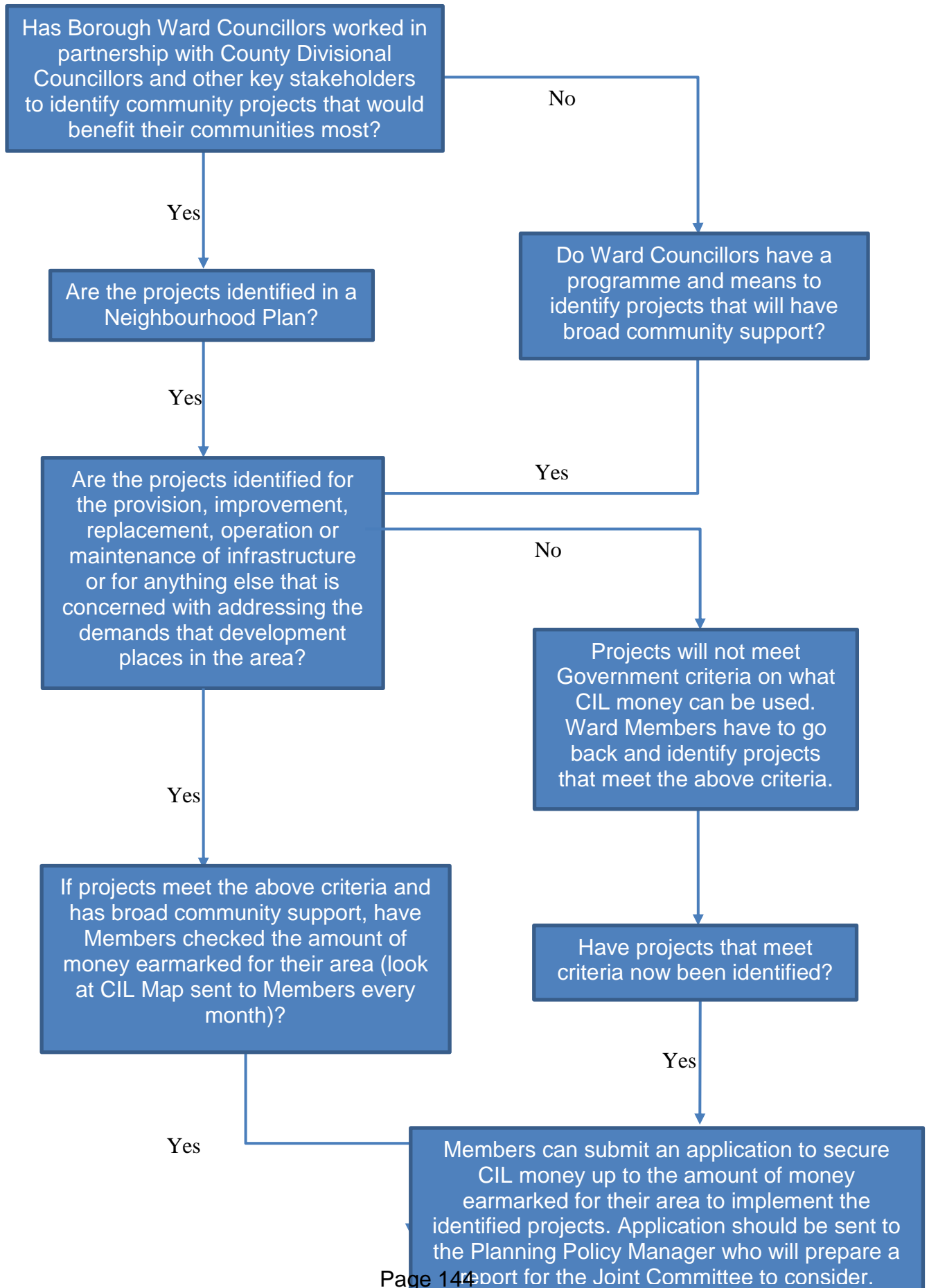
## **2.0 Ideas and recommendations that came out of O&S.**

- 2.1 These are aimed to support the Joint Committee review of the NCIL process in their discussion, and are as follows;
  - 2.1.1 The finalised flow chart to be circulated to all members and Resident Groups in the Borough to support them through this process, to try to trigger ideas and local applications.
  - 2.1.2 To explore whether small scale NCIL can be accessed in the same way as County projects for the County Councillors with delegated budgets; without having to go through the Joint Committee, but with Councillors having access to £10,000. This would support the utilisation of the NCIL without having to wait for the next Joint Committee for approval.
  - 2.1.3 An alternative proposal is the formation of a small cross party sub group from the Joint Committee who are delegated to receive and approve NCIL applications.
  - 2.1.4 The Ward Councillor role needs to be clarified in this process. Their role is the identification of projects with residents and resident groups and acting as an advocate to support these projects in the submission to the Joint Committee and later with the designated planning manager. It needs clarity that the Ward Councillor is not expected to act as the project manager for these projects.
  - 2.1.5 It would be helpful to have some pragmatic guidance regarding the ongoing maintenance of the projects and it may vary from case to case takes into account the value and life span of the project.

- 2.1.6 A defined timeline for a decision post application would be helpful for both the ward councillors and residents. Ward Councillors should always be informed of developments.
- 2.1.7 Clarity over the proposed 5% administrative fee, which it was believed would cover management costs. Could this be obtained from the overall CIL pot and not taken from the NCIL component?
- 2.1.8 An appeals process for applicants to be identified.

REPORT ENDS

**NCIL Funding Process Existing Flowchart**



**What information does Ward Members need to apply for the CIL money?**

- Name of infrastructure project
- A brief description of the project and what it seeks to achieve with estimate of costs
- Evidence of broad community support for the project.

Application will be reported to the next relevant meeting of the Joint Committee. Joint Committee approves application. Money is ready to be released to deliver projects.

**Who is responsible for delivering the project?**

Ward Members are responsible for ensuring the delivery of the projects. Invoices should be sent to the Planning Policy Manager who will process them for payment. For monitoring, and transparency, all money paid for community projects and the projects the money has been spent on will be reported annually in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

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