



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 24 MARCH 2021
LEAD OFFICER: ERNEST AMOAKO

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DECISIONS BY THE COMMUNITY
 INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) SUB GROUP

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The report requests the Woking Joint Committee to note the decisions of the CIL Sub Group since it was set up in December 2020. To date, the Sub Group has met on three occasions to determine a total of four applications. Of the four applications, three were approved and one has been referred to this meeting of the Joint Committee for determination because of the amount requested (£15,000).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked to note:

- (i) The applications determined by the Sub Group and its decisions to date.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To keep the Joint Committee informed of the decisions of the Sub Group.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 The Joint Committee at its meeting on 11 November 2020 agreed to set up a Sub Group to determine applications to secure Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money for community projects up to the value of £10,000. This arrangement is intended to speed up the determination of applications. The Sub Group formed in December 2020. It comprises of six Members and is chaired by Councillor Melanie Whitehand. The Sub Group has agreed a Terms of Reference to guide how it would work. It meets on the first Monday of every month. The Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix 1. To date, the Sub Group has met on three occasions to determine a total of four applications. Details of the applications are set out in Section 2 of the report. Copies of the applications that have been determined with Officers' analysis and recommendations can be provided on request.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 The following is an update on the applications determined to date by the CIL Sub Group:

- a. Application submitted for projects in West Byfleet Neighbourhood Area – The application was for new village signs at Camphill Road, Coldharbour Road and Parvis Road. The amount requested was £3,360. The application was determined on 14 December 2020 and was approved.
- b. Application submitted for projects in West Byfleet Neighbourhood Area – the application was for the installation of three picnic benches, two regular benches, and removal of ball wall and reinstatement of grass at West Byfleet Recreation Ground. The amount requested was £6,987.36. The application was determined on 14 December 2020 and was approved.
- c. Application submitted for projects in Byfleet Neighbourhood Area – the application was for the installation of new play equipment with grass matting safety surfacing and one additional picnic bench, and a replacement of a Memorial Bench at Plough Green. The amount requested was £6,000. The application was determined on 1 February 2021 and was approved.
- d. Application submitted for projects in Hook Heath Neighbourhood Area. The application was for the replacement of old benches, provision of new benches, and replacement of hand rail for steep path and renovation of road signs. The amount requested was £15,000. The application was considered on 1 March 2021. Given the amount requested is more than £10,000, the Sub Group has recommended that the application be approved by the Joint Committee. A copy of the application together with Officers analysis and recommendations is included in Appendix 2.

2.2 There is still significant amount of money, about £1,317,050 to be claimed for local community projects, and Members are encouraged to identify projects that CIL money could be used to deliver. Members receive monthly update on how much money has been secured for each Ward or Neighbourhood Area. For information, a Map showing the latest update as at February 2021 is in Appendix 3.

- 2.3 At the Sub Group meeting on 1 March 2021, the Chair sought Members' views on the effectiveness of the Sub Group in determining relevant applications to date. The general consensus of the Group was that it is enabling the efficient and speedy determination of applications. In this regard, the Sub Group is meeting its intended purpose.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to pass on a proportion of its CIL receipts to local communities where the development occurred to deliver community infrastructure projects. The Joint Committee has agreed an arrangement by which communities could secure the CIL money for the projects. Given the frequency of meetings of the Joint Committee, the arrangement to have the Sub Group to determine applications up to the value of £10,000 on a more frequent basis will significantly improve the efficiency of the process. So far the arrangement is working as it was intended.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Deputy Chief Executive have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The cost of administering how much CIL income will be earmarking for local community projects, managing the individual accounts for the various Wards and Neighbourhood Areas and providing Members with update on money received and spent is presently being met from existing Planning Policy and Finance Service Plan budgets.
- 5.2 As at end of February 2021 a total of £1,317,050 has been earmarked for community infrastructure projects across the borough. This is yet to be claimed for local community projects.
- 5.3 By 31 December of each year, the Council is required to publish the total amount of CIL income received and how much has been spent and on what. This information will be published in the Council's Annual monitoring Report.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 The CIL money would contribute towards the delivery of necessary infrastructure to minimise development impacts on local communities. It is important that applications to secure the money are processed efficiently. The Sub Group would help achieve this objective.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The implications of the report are borough-wide

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 No significant implications arising from this report.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report.

9.1 Crime and Disorder implications

None.

9.2 Sustainability implications

None.

9.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

None.

9.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

None.

9.5 Public Health implications

None.

9.6 Human Resource/Training and Development

None.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 The Joint Committee is requested to note decisions made by the CIL Sub Group since it was formed in December 2020.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 The Joint Committee should continue to encourage Members to identify community projects that CIL money could be used to deliver.

Contact Officer:

Ernest Amoako – Planning Policy Manager (ernest.amoako@woking.gov.uk).

Consulted:

Douglas Spinks – Deputy Chief Executive.

Borough Portfolio Holder

Councillor Gary Elson – Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Annexes:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Application from Hook Heath Neighbourhood Form

Appendix 3 – Map illustrating money secured for each Ward or Neighbourhood Area.

Sources/background papers:

CIL Flowchart

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