

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Allocation of CIL funds

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That the following projects be approved for CIL funding:
 - Kings Somborne Community Building – £95,000
 - Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme – £25,000
 - Hurstbourne Tarrant Flood Alleviation Scheme – £15,126
 - Southampton Road shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route – £270,000
 - Barton Stacey Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – £35,715
 - Botley Road informal crossing point – £35,000
2. That the sum of £475,841 be drawn from the CIL Reserve to finance these projects.

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received during 2018 and an evaluation of each one, and
- Funding recommendations made for each project

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines all 8 projects that were submitted during the first round of the CIL bidding process and the resultant funding recommendations
- 1.2 The report includes a brief description of each project, a percentage score against the Spending Protocol scoring criteria and a funding recommendation.
- 1.3 There is currently £1,022,348 in the main infrastructure pot. Further financial information is available in Annex 2 of the report.

2 Background

- 2.1 The CIL Spending Protocol and scoring methodology was adopted by Council on the 08 November 2017.
- 2.2 The following paragraphs outline each project and provide a recommendation for funding based on the approved scoring methodology.
- 2.3 The approved Bid Assessment document is attached at Annex 1 of the report.

This is made up of 10 questions with a maximum score of 120 points. An average percentage score is presented below alongside a funding recommendation.

- 2.4 All bids are assessed against the same criteria meaning that a scheme with a total cost of £15,000 will be scored in the same way as a scheme with a total cost of £15,000,000.
- 2.5 Smaller schemes are likely to score lower as the level of detail required for the project is not as significant as a large scheme. This means that the threshold for recommendation reduces along with total project cost.

2.6 **Funding Recommendations**

2.7 **Project 1 – Kings Somborne Community Building**

Lead Organisation – Kings Somborne Parish Council

Description – Provision of a prefabricated modular building designed not only for use as a preschool but for other community activities as well.

Evaluation of project – The Parish Council project provided a large amount of evidence of need as well as answering all of the questions in the criteria in a detailed and clear manner. The level and depth of consultation that was conducted was thorough and detailed.

Average Score – 74%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £95,000 towards the Kings Somborne Community Building project.

2.8 **Project 2 – Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Lead Organisation – Environment Agency (EA)

Description – A scheme of works including installing flow control, earth embanking and drainage improvements to reduce the risk of fluvial (river) flooding from the River Test and surface water flooding in the Mainstone areas of Romsey

Evaluation of project – The project scored highly against the criteria assessing how the project mitigates development and enables development. The evidence of need was demonstrated and also the level of consultation showed significant public support for the scheme following the 2014 floods. This is a well rounded bid with far reaching benefits for the residents of Romsey. The bid answered all of the questions in a detailed manner providing statistical evidence where required.

Average Score – 76%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £25,000 towards the Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme.

2.9 Project 3 – Hurstbourne Tarrant Flood Alleviation Scheme (Operation Pathfinder)

Lead Organisation – Hampshire County Council

Description – Reinstatement and repair of riverbed of the River Swift between Hurstbourne Tarrant and Vernham Dean.

Evaluation of project – The answers to both breadth and depth of benefits from the project scored highly along with the evidence of need. The Parish Council will cover the costs of maintaining the works and is likely to have further involvement with future works planned.

Average Score – 60%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £15,126 towards the Hurstbourne Tarrant Flood Alleviation Scheme.

2.10 Project 4 – Southampton Road, Romsey, shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route

Lead Organisation – Test Valley Borough Council

Description – To provide a safe and improved route for pedestrians and cyclists to access Lee Lane from Romsey. The proposed route is currently a footway and would be widened to enable shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.

Evaluation of project – The project provides direct benefits and will reduce risks for both motorists and cyclists in the area and increasing opportunities for cyclists on quieter and less fast routes.

Average Score – 53%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £270,000 towards the Southampton Road shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route. These funds will be held until feasibility work is completed and will only be released if the project is to proceed.

2.11 Project 5 – Barton Stacey Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). Fun and Fitness in Barton Stacey

Lead Organisation – Barton Stacey Parish Council

Description – Installation of a MUGA on Parish Council owned land which will provide a formal and informal recreation area for the whole community through play and exercise. The MUGA will offer tennis, basketball, netball, football, hockey and as well as an informal kick about space.

Evaluation of project – The project received lower scores for the breadth of impacts and enabling development but did receive high scores in evidence of need, community benefits and funding options.

Average Score – 49%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £35,715 towards the Barton Stacey MUGA.

2.12 Project 6 – Botley Road, Romsey, informal crossing point

Lead Organisation – Test Valley Borough Council

Description – To create a safe informal crossing point for pedestrians wishing to cross Botley Road in the vicinity of the new Co-op food store. The provision of dropped kerbs and a 2 metre wide refuge island enabling pedestrians to cross one lane of traffic at a time.

Evaluation of project – The project scored highly for the mitigation of development, impact on intended users and capturing local ambitions. The risk assessment criteria impacted the score of the scheme due to the nature of highways works. The scheme will be unable to go through full feasibility until there is a certainty of funding. The monies for this scheme will be held until feasibility has been completed. The costs of feasibility studies are not derived from the CIL funds being bid for.

Average Score – 48%

Recommendation – Approve the release of £35,000 towards the Botley Road informal crossing point. These funds will be held until feasibility work is completed and will only be released if the project is to proceed.

2.13 Project 7 – Ampfield Recreation Ground. Preparation for new and relocated playground and provision of car parking

Lead Organisation – Ampfield Parish Council

Description – Preparatory work to facilitate relocation and upgrading of the play area. To also install a car park to serve the recreation ground and new children's playground.

Evaluation of project – The project did not provide supporting information for the answers provided and did not address the removal of an existing play space asset.

Average Score – 38%

Recommendation – Refuse the request for £38,489 for the preparation for new relocated playground and provision of car parking at Ampfield Recreation Ground. It is suggested that Ampfield Parish Council submit a new bid in 2019 that includes provision of a new playground.

2.14 Project 8 – Braishfield Village signage and amenity improvement project

Lead Organisation – Braishfield Parish Council

Description – To install new signage at Village entrances, the village shop and to signpost leisure facilities in the area.

Evaluation of project – The project does not provide a sufficient benefit to the local community and does not address any evidenced need. The project did not supply sufficient supporting information to the answers provided..

Average Score – 22%

Recommendation – Refuse the request for £10,505 for the Braishfield Village signage and amenity improvement project.

3 Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 This report covers all Corporate Priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 as shown below.
- 3.2 Live – A large portion of CIL receipts are generated from residential developments. These contributions help provide infrastructure to mitigate the impact of development by providing funds for new or improved infrastructure.
- 3.3 Work and do Business – The Flood Alleviation Schemes in this report help to ensure certainty of investment in these communities and assist in retaining existing businesses.
- 3.4 Enjoy – A new MUGA, Community Building and Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route will assist in enjoying the natural and built environment of Test Valley. The MUGA delivers a new leisure facility for the Borough. The pedestrian and cycle route will assist in increasing our green credentials and promotes alternative modes of transport in the area.
- 3.5 Contribute – The CIL Spending Protocol affords local communities financial support to get their projects off the ground. Communities action plans can be moved forward to deal with flooding, improving the green credentials of their area and looking out for those who are most vulnerable as seen in Kings Somborne’s community building bid.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 There has been no consultation on the contents of this report. Projects listed have gone through various forms of consultation prior to bids being submitted as is required by the assessment criteria.
- 4.2 However, statutory consultation was undertaken on the Regulation 123 List prior to its adoption in November 2016. The Council’s public sector partners such as Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency have contributed to the Regulation 123 List as well as Parish Councils through their contributions to the Test Valley Access Plan. Therefore the Council has taken the step through the CIL Spending Protocol approach to ensure that CIL funds are distributed in a fair, transparent and equitable way to maximise opportunities for the projects on the CIL Regulation 123 List to be delivered.

5 Options

5.1 **Option 1** – Support the recommendations and approve the release of £475,841.

5.2 **Option 2** – To refuse/approve projects against the recommendations.

6 Option Appraisal

Option 1

6.1 The recommendations are transparent and fair using the criteria approved by Cabinet on the 18 October 2017.

Option 2

6.2 Projects may be approved or refused against the recommendations. Feedback will be given to applicants where a project is refused funding.

7 Risk Management

7.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicate that further risk assessment is not needed because the changes/issues covered do not represent significant risks or have previously been considered by Councillors.

8 Resource Implications

8.1 The funding for these projects will come from the Council's CIL receipts. No other resources will be used. The current balance in the CIL Reserve is £1,022,348. If all recommended projects are approved at a cost of £475,841, the balance remaining will be £546,507. However, this reserve is expected to increase over time as further CIL contributions are received.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 No legal implications for Option 1

10 Equality Issues

10.1 An EQIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

11 Other Issues

11.1 Wards/Communities Affected – The projects listed affect the following parishes: Romsey Town, Romsey Extra, Braishfield, Barton Stacey, Kings Somborne, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Vernham Dean and Ampfield.

12 Conclusion

12.1 Approval is sought to release CIL funds to the following projects:

- Kings Somborne Community Building – £95,000
- Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme – £25,000
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- Southampton Road shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route – £270,000
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Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Reference the Cabinet reports for the Reg 123 List and Spending Protocol.

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	2	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor Nick Adams-King			
Officer:	Oliver McCarthy	Ext:	8176
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	5 December 2018