

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Allocation of CIL funds

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the following projects are approved for CIL funding:

- **Stockbridge Travel to School Plan – £95,000**
- **King Johns House Gates and Signage – £36,500**

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received during April-June 2020, an evaluation of each project, and
- Funding recommendations made for each project

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines 3 projects that were submitted during the April-June 2020 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 £2,116,000 in the main infrastructure fund. This is after taking into account the Neighbourhood Portion passed to Parish and Town Councils as well as administrative expenses.

2 Background

- 2.1 The CIL Spending Protocol and scoring methodology was adopted by Council on the 8 November 2017.
- 2.2 This round of CIL bidding ran between 1 April and 30 June 2020.
- 2.3 The following paragraphs outline each project and provide a recommendation for funding based on the approved scoring methodology.
- 2.4 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. Questions 1 and 2 are heavily weighted as they are linked to CIL's main purpose which is to enable or mitigate the impacts of development. An average percentage score is presented below alongside a funding recommendation.

- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.

3 Funding Recommendations

3.1 Project 1 – Stockbridge Travel to School Plan

Lead Organisation – Stockbridge Parish Council

Description – To implement the travel to School Plan of Stockbridge Primary School. The intention is to provide a safer road environment for the residents of Stockbridge's Old London Rd and the pupils, teachers and staff of Stockbridge Primary school.

Evaluation of project – A well evidenced project that has been supported and financially backed by both Stockbridge Parish Council and Hampshire County Council. The measures provide benefits to the intended users travelling to and from the School in addition to other pedestrians and cyclists that use the route. All areas of the criteria were covered in detail and utilised supporting documentation well.

Average Score – 57%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £95,000 towards the Stockbridge Travel to School Plan.

3.2 Project 2 – King Johns House Gates and Signage

Lead Organisation – King Johns House and Tudor Cottage Trust Ltd

Description – The project's aim is to increase usage of the museum, tearooms and gardens, by increasing visibility. The site entrance on Church Street (the main entrance) is set well back from the pavement and is not readily visible. In addition to making access more obvious, the arched gates and new signage are intended to improve the street scene.

Evaluation of project – The submission was detailed and covered risk analysis and financial viability well. A range of benefits were identified. In particular making the most of an under-utilised asset that would add to Romsey's existing heritage draw. The proposal is the first of a longer-term plan for the site and initial CIL monies would enable the leveraging in of other funding sources.

Average Score – 55%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £36,500 towards the King Johns House Gates and Signage project.

3.3 Project 3 – Valley Park Tree Planting

Lead Organisation – Valley Park Parish Council

Description – A 3-year mature tree planting scheme of 165 trees in locations around Valley Park.

Evaluation of project – The proposal was not broad enough in scope to score highly against the criteria. The locations chosen for planting would result in a loss of public open space in some instances. This impact was not considered and has not been mitigated. Trees are proposed to be planted in close proximity to a number of dwellings. Evidence of direct consultation with these householders about the proposed locations was not provided. The proposal was not able to be assessed against the criteria related to risk or delivery as no risk assessment taking into account the above was presented. Additionally, no delivery plan was received to assess any long term permanent impacts.

Average Score – 42%

Recommendation – That Cabinet refuse the request for £82,150 for tree planting in Valley Park. Feedback will be provided to the Parish Council who will be encouraged to work with the Community and Leisure Service to deliver on aspirations in this area.

4 Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 This report covers the following Corporate Priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 as shown below.
- 4.2 Town Centres – King Johns House is located near Romsey Town Centre. The enhancement of this asset will improve the heritage offer within Romsey and help ensure it is an attractive, vibrant and prosperous Town.
- 4.3 Communities – Stockbridge Travel to School Plan is being delivered by the Parish Council. An improved local school route helps ensure that communities are connected.

5 Consultations/Communications

- 5.1 There has been no external consultation because the report reflects the outcomes of an approved methodology. Projects listed have gone through various forms of consultation prior to bids being submitted as is required by the assessment criteria.

6 Options

- 6.1 **Option 1** – Support the recommendations and approve the release of £131,500
- 6.2 **Option 2** – To refuse/approve projects against the recommendations

7 Option Appraisal

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

8 Risk Management

8.1 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.

9 Resource Implications

9.1 The funding for these projects will come from the Council's CIL receipts. No other resources will be used.

10 Legal Implications (Note: Of the chosen option)

10.1 No legal implications for Option 1

11 Equality Issues

11.1 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.

12 Other Issues

12.1 Wards/Communities Affected – The projects listed affect the following communities: Romsey Town, Stockbridge, Valley Park.

13 Conclusion

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

- Stockbridge Travel to School Plan – £95,000
- King Johns House Gates and signage – £36,500

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| <u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> | | | |
| Cabinet report from the 18 October 2017. | | | |
| <u>Confidentiality</u> | | | |
| 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: | 1 | File Ref: | N/A |
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| Report to: | Cabinet | Date: | 10 March 2021 |