

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Allocation of CIL funds

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the following projects totalling £283,524 are approved for CIL funding:

- Extension of St Mary's GP Surgery – £240,478
- Viney Avenue to Cupernham School Pedestrian Works – £13,535
- Valley Park Orchard Trail – £29,511

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received during April – June 2021, 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 2021 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 £700,000 in the Community Projects Reserve. This is after taking into account the Regeneration Reserve, 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 2021.
- 2.3 Section 3 of this report identifies each project and provides a recommendation for funding based on the approved scoring methodology.
- 2.4 The approved Bid Assessment document which can be accessed [here](#). This is made up of 10 questions with a maximum score of 120 points. Questions 1 and 2 are weighted heavily 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 – Extension of St Mary’s GP Surgery

Lead Organisation – Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group.

Description – The extension of St Mary’s GP surgery to allow for additional consulting rooms and staffing.

Evaluation of project – A detailed submission that had a large amount of supporting evidence. A robust risk assessment has been carried out and planning permission has been granted for the extension. The bid scored well against the mitigation and enabling of development criteria due to adding capacity to the local primary care network.

Average Score – 79%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the release of £240,478 towards an extension to St Mary’s GP Surgery.

3.2 Project 2 – Viney Avenue to Cupernham School Pedestrian Works

Lead Organisation – Romsey Future Walking and Cycling Work Group.

Description – Dropped kerbs and way-finding signage between Viney Avenue and Cupernham School. This is the first phase of wider pedestrian and cycling improvement project in Romsey.

Evaluation of project – A large amount of photographic evidence was provided along with assessments for each individual location proposed for enhancement. The scheme scored highly against the criteria that focused on impacts for the intended users, particularly those with mobility issues. Hampshire County Council have been consulted and have supported the proposals.

Average Score – 53%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the release of £13,535 towards pedestrian works between Viney Avenue and Cupernham School.

3.3 Project 3 – Valley Park Orchard Trail

Lead Organisation – Valley Park Parish Council.

Description – Planting of 6 orchards with wildflower ground cover in Valley Park.

Evaluation of project – A scheme that will be delivered in partnership with our Community and Leisure service. Scored strongly against consultation criteria due to a large show of support from local residents, businesses and schools. The proposal provides a number of direct and indirect benefits to the local community. An interesting environmental scheme that also includes aspects of sustainability in the form of locally produced fruit.

Average Score – 50%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the release of £29,511 towards Valley Park Orchard Trail.

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 Communities – The Viney Avenue to Cupernham School Pedestrian Works bid has been submitted by the Romsey Future Walking and Cycling Group. This is a group comprised mainly of Romsey residents who volunteer their time to help plan improvements to pedestrian access in the town. This bid is an example of how the Council is empowering local communities.
- 4.3 People – The extension of St Mary’s GP Surgery is an example of the Council investing in infrastructure to ensure that people are able to live well with the borough.
- 4.4 The Local Environment – The Valley Park Orchard trail bid was developed in conjunction with the Council’s Community and Leisure Service. The scheme will provide high quality green infrastructure for the community to enjoy for generations to come.

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 £283,524
- 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

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, Andover and Valley Park.

13 Conclusion

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

- Extension of St Mary's GP Surgery - £240,478.
- Viney Avenue to Cupernham School Pedestrian Works - £13,535.
- Valley Park Orchard Trail - £29,511.

<p><u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> Cabinet report from the 18 October 2017 CIL Bid Assessment</p>			
<p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>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.</p>			
No of Annexes:	0	File Ref:	N/A
<p>(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor P Bundy</p>			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	30 March 2022