

Report to Cabinet – 18 January 2023

**Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
Funds – Community Projects Reserve**

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That the following projects are approved for CIL funding:
 - Nether Wallop Playing Fields – £101,000
 - Over Wallop Sports Pavilion – £269,766
 - Plaza Theatre, Romsey Additional Funding – £100,000
 - Bury Dene Playing Fields, Vernham Dean – £33,132
2. That the projects be added to the Council's Capital Programme, to be funded by the CIL Community Projects Reserve.

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022, an evaluation of each project, and
- Funding recommendations made for each project

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines 4 projects that were submitted during the 2022 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.
- 1.4 The Annex to this report provides an update on previous year's allocations. 24 projects have been allocated funding with 13 completed so far.

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 2022.
- 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 is made up of 10 questions with a maximum score of 120 points. Questions 1 and 2 are 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 – Nether Wallop Playing Fields

Lead Organisation – Nether Wallop Parish Council

Description – The provision of outdoor exercise equipment, playground apparatus, an all-weather running track, wet weather shelter, new seating and wilding improvements at The Playing Fields, Aylwards, Way, SO20 8HB.

Evaluation of project – The project scored highly against criteria relating to consultation, direct benefits and impacts on users. Extensive consultation has taken place with the local community to ensure that the project captures their ambitions. The new infrastructure to be provided caters to a wider range of users and provides easier access to those with mobility issues. A well evidenced submission that addresses an identified need in the area.

Total project cost – £203,100

Amount of CIL funding requested – £101,000

Average Score – 73%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the allocation of £101,000 towards the Nether Wallop Playing Fields Project.

3.2 Project 2 – Over Wallop Sports Pavilion

Lead Organisation – Over Wallop Parish Council

Description – Construction of a new sports pavilion at the Alan Evans Memorial Ground, Salisbury Lane, Over Wallop.

Evaluation of project – The project looks to address issues of compliance with sporting bodies from the current outdated pavilion. It has strong support from the clubs that will utilise the facilities and will provide improved energy efficiency over the existing structure. A strong project that will benefit the many regular users of the Memorial Ground.

Total project cost – £539,532

Amount of CIL funding requested – £269,766

Average Score – 64%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the allocation of £269,766 towards the construction of a new Sports Pavilion at the Alan Evans Memorial Ground, Over Wallop.

3.3 Project 3 – Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild (Additional Funding)

Lead Organisation – Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (RAODS)

Description – Extension of the stage house upwards to reach the same height as the majority of the building to allow the installation of a lighting grid, rewiring and equipment upgrade. Council approved an initial allocation of £200,000 on 20th November 2019. Building work could not take place as originally planned in 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic. Work is now planned for May 2023 but has resulted in increased quotations. This additional £100,000 is required for the project to move forward as originally planned.

Evaluation of project – A robust project that scored well across all criteria and provides an enhanced facility to the people of Romsey and surrounding areas. Detailed risk analysis has been carried out and a project management plan is in place to ensure timely delivery of the various aspects of the scheme.

Total project cost – £789,569

Amount of CIL funding requested – £100,000

Average Score – 64%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the allocation of an additional £100,000 of CIL funds towards the Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild.

3.4 Project 4 – Bury Dene Playing Fields

Lead Organisation – Vernham Dean Parish Council

Description – The provision of new play equipment at Bury Dene Playing Fields to ensure that the facilities are suitable for children of all ages and abilities.

Evaluation of project – Evidence of need was detailed and to a high standard. Local consultation showed support from the community and the existing users' desire for improvements. Outdated and unsafe equipment was recently removed after concerns raised by inspectors. This proposal seeks to not replace that equipment but to improve upon the old offer and diversify the available equipment after feedback from the nearby school and local parents.

Total project cost – £66,265

Amount of CIL funding requested – £33,132

Average Score – 51%

Recommendation – That Cabinet endorse the allocation of £33,132 towards new play equipment at Bury Dene Playing Fields.

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 Plaza Theatre bid has been submitted by RAODS which is a group comprised of local residents who volunteer their time to operating the facility and putting on various shows at the theatre. The Community Projects Reserve empowers local communities by allowing them to deliver on their infrastructure priorities.

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 allocation of £503,898 to these 4 projects.
- 6.2 **Option 2** – To refuse 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.
- 7.2 If funding is not approved for the four projects then they are unlikely to be delivered. The positive impacts of the new and improved infrastructure on residents will thus not be realised.

Option 2

- 7.3 Projects may be approved or refused against the recommendations. Feedback will be given to applicants where a project is refused funding.
- 7.4 Additional funds will be available to allocate in future rounds. However all projects have met the scoring thresholds that have, in previous rounds, seen funding allocated.

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, Romsey Extra, Nether Wallop, Over Wallop and Vernham Dean.

13 Conclusion

13.1 Approval is sought to allocate £503,898 CIL funds to the following projects:

- Nether Wallop Playing Fields – £101,000
- Over Wallop Sports Pavilion – £269,766
- Plaza Theatre Additional Funding – £100,000
- Bury Dene Playing Fields – £33,132

The 4 projects will be added to the Council’s Capital Programme, to be funded by the CIL Community Projects Reserve.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
Cabinet report from 18 October 2017 - Item 9			
<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
(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor P Bundy			
Officer:	Oliver McCarthy	Ext:	8176
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 January 2023