

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

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That £50,618 be allocated to the Koala Community Hub, as set out in section 3 of the report.
2. That the project identified in recommendation 1, be added to the Council's Capital Programme, to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy Community Projects Reserve.

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bid received from More Education in April 2024 including an evaluation against the criteria set out in the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bid Assessment protocol.
- A recommendation with regard to the allocation of funding for this project based on the approved scoring methodology has been proposed.
- This bid has been brought forward at this point as an exception due to the nature of the time constraints for this project.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines the project submitted by More Education, a brief description of the project, a percentage score against the adopted scoring criteria and a funding recommendation for the scheme.
- 1.2 There is currently £300,000 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 Section 3 of this report identifies the project and provides a recommendation for funding based on the approved scoring methodology.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 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.

3 Funding Recommendation

3.1 Project 1 – Koala Community Hub

Lead Organisation – More Education

Description – To create a central hub to facilitate education and community activities for the autistic and neurodivergent community within Test Valley.

Evaluation of project – A detailed bid that made a strong case for a community and educational hub that will make a positive impact on the lives of those utilising it. Consultation showed widespread community support for the scheme. The scheme scored well against the criteria generally but excelled in terms of direct benefits for users and evidence of need.

Total project cost – £114,902

Amount of CIL funding requested – £50,618

Average Score – 68%

Recommendation – That the allocation of £50,618 to the Koala Community Hub be approved.

4 Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 This report covers the following Corporate Priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 as shown below.

- 4.2 Prosperity – The funds from the Community Projects Reserve originate from CIL receipts secured against development within the borough. The income from this development allows us to fund new infrastructure to ensure we support and grow our new and existing communities.

5 Consultations/Communications

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

6 Options

6.1 Option 1

- 6.1.1 Support the recommendation and approve the allocation of £50,618 to Koala Community Hub.

6.2 Option 2

- 6.2.1 To refuse the request for CIL funding against the recommendation set out under Option 1, following consideration of this scheme against the agreed criteria.

7 Option Appraisal

7.1 Option 1

- 7.1.1 The recommendation is based upon the criteria approved by Cabinet on the 18 October 2017 and as such the project has been assessed on a fair and consistent basis in the same way as previous CIL funding requests.
- 7.1.2 For the reasons set out above the scheme for which funding is recommended would have a positive impact for the autistic and neurodivergent community within Test Valley, particularly within and surrounding Andover. It is considered that this scheme would represent an appropriate use of CIL funding.

7.2 Option 2

- 7.2.1 The project may be refused against the recommendation. Feedback will be given to the applicant where a project is refused funding.
- 7.2.2 If funding were not approved for the project recommended for support by allocation of CIL funding, it is unlikely that the scheme would be delivered. This would mean that the positive impacts and benefits resulting from the provision of new and improved infrastructure, which would be delivered by this scheme, would not be realised.

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 project listed affects the following community: Andover and surrounding areas

13 Conclusion

- 13.1 Approval is sought to allocate £50,618 of Community Infrastructure Levy funds to the Koala Community Hub
- 13.2 It is considered that this scheme represents an appropriate use of CIL income, which would support development in the borough, for the reasons summarised above, having been assessed against the approved criteria. The project will be added to the Council’s Capital Programme, to be funded by the CIL Community Projects Reserve.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

[Cabinet report from the 18 October 2017.](#)

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:	None	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor P Bundy

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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	29 May 2024
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