

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Allocation of CIL funds

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the following projects are approved for Community Infrastructure Levy funding:

- **Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild – £200,000**
- **Longparish Playground Redevelopment – £40,000**
- **Access Improvements at Charlton Lakes – £100,355**
- **Ampfield Recreation Ground – £66,432**
- **Valley Park Community Centre – £79,525**
- **Over Wallop War Memorial – £19,970**
- **Braishfield Village Hall – £95,813**
- **Hurstbourne Tarrant Floor Alleviation Scheme – £5,400**

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received during 2019, an evaluation of each project, and
- Funding recommendations made for each project

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines all 9 projects that were submitted during the second 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 £1,191,705 in the main infrastructure pot.

2 Background

- 2.1 The CIL Spending Protocol and scoring methodology was adopted by Council on the 8 November 2017.
- 2.2 This second round of CIL bidding ran between 1 April and 30 June 2019.

- 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. 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 – Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild

Lead Organisation – Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society

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.

Evaluation of project – A robust project that scored well across all questions and provides an enhanced facility to the people of Romsey and surrounding areas. Detailed risk analysis has been carried out and a large proportion of funding has already been secured.

Average Score – 60%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £200,000 towards the Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild project.

3.2 Project 2 – Longparish Playground Redevelopment

Lead Organisation – Longparish Parish Council

Description – A complete redesign of the playground to provide up to date equipment and a safe play environment for under 12's in the village.

Evaluation of project – Evidence of need was detailed and to a high standard. Consultation was detailed and showed great support from the local community. The project will have a large impact on intended users and addresses evidenced safety issues caused by outdated play equipment.

Average Score – 55%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £40,000 towards the Longparish Playground Redevelopment project.

3.3 **Project 3 – Access Improvements at Charlton Lakes**

Lead Organisation – Test Valley Borough Council

Description – Improvements to pedestrian and cycle links to Charlton Lakes. Specifically delivering a new bridge access across the River Anton located off Foxcotte Road and a 230 metre paved foot/cycleway to the site.

Evaluation of project – The project provides enhanced pedestrian and cycle links to a key area of open space. Detailed consultation showed overwhelming community support and that all communities would benefit from the improved accessibility of the site.

Average Score – 54%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £100,355 towards access improvements at Charlton Lakes.

3.4 **Project 4 – Ampfield Recreation Ground**

Lead Organisation – Ampfield Parish Council

Description – Demolition of disused changing room facility and the provision of car parking at Ampfield Recreation Ground. Relocation of play area and provision of new equipment for improved health and safety.

Evaluation of project – The project enables all areas of the local community to benefit from a key area of open space. A wide range of funding sources have been utilised to ensure a reduced reliance on CIL and provide greater certainty of delivery. A number of evidenced accessibility and health and safety issues have been addressed by the project.

Average Score – 53%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £66,432 towards the Ampfield Recreation Ground project.

3.5 **Project 5 – Valley Park Community Centre**

Lead Organisation – Valley Park Community Association

Description – Revised layout and modernisation of Valley Park Community Centre. Including accessibility improvements and the creation of a second large hall space.

Evaluation of project – A high level of consultation was conducted and shows largescale community support. The wider project will bring a number of benefits to the local community by providing an improved flexible multi-use facility. All areas of the community will benefit as evidenced by the variety of groups that use the existing facility. Many more have expressed an interest in using the increased capacity that the project will bring.

Average Score – 52%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £79,525 towards the Valley Park Community Centre project.

3.6 **Project 6 – Over Wallop War Memorial**

Lead Organisation – Over Wallop Parish Council

Description – Works to provide protection for Over Wallop War Memorial including carriage blocks and improved hardstanding.

Evaluation of project – A strong evidence of need was provided for this project. The protection of this heritage asset was wholeheartedly supported by the local community in the consultation documents. The project is minimally reliant on CIL funding with a wide variety of other funding sources utilised including the Community Asset Fund and Over Wallop Parish Council themselves.

Average Score – 51%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £19,970 towards the Over Wallop War Memorial project.

3.7 **Project 7 – Braishfield Village Hall**

Lead Organisation – Braishfield Parish Council

Description – Phase 4 and 5 of the programme of works being conducted at Braishfield Village Hall including a new store room and upgraded kitchen for the Braishfield Pantry.

Evaluation of project – Strong evidence of need with a large amount of community support. A wide variety of community benefits that will enhance this asset.

Average Score – 50%

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £95,813 towards the Braishfield Village Hall project.

3.8 **Project 8 – Additional allocation to previously approved bid – Hurstbourne Tarrant Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Lead Organisation – Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Additional Amount – £5,400

Reason for allocation – Quotations received after the 2018 submission deadline accounting for works included in the original bid added £5,400 to the total cost of the scheme. These works were approved by Cabinet in December 2018. Officers considered the quotes and have supported the additional funding required to deliver the full scheme of works approved in 2018.

Recommendation – That Cabinet approve the release of £5,400 towards the previously approved Hurstbourne Tarrant Flood Alleviation Scheme.

3.9 **Project 9 – Accessibility and Local Rights of Way in Hurstbourne Tarrant**

Lead Organisation – Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Description – To improve accessibility to local rights of way and encourage responsible and active use by local people.

Evaluation of project – A lack of supporting documentation restricted the score that the project could receive. No risk analysis or exploration of other funding sources also reduced scores.

Average Score – 38%

Recommendation – Refuse the request for £12,718 for improvements to accessibility and rights of way in Hurstbourne Tarrant. Feedback will be provided to the Parish along with other potential funding sources for this project.

4 **Objectives and Priorities**

- 4.1 This report covers all Corporate Priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 as shown below.
- 4.2 Town Centres – The Plaza Theatre is located near Romsey Town Centre. The enhancement of this asset will improve the arts offer within Romsey and help ensure it is an attractive, vibrant and prosperous Town.
- 4.3 Communities – A number of projects are being delivered by Parish Councils and Community Associations. High standard Community and Village Halls ensure that communities are connected and able to build upon their strengths. The Braishfield Pantry is a good example of this.
- 4.4 People – The improved community facilities and green spaces resulting from this funding will help people to live well in Test Valley and fulfil their aspirations.
- 4.5 The Local Environment – The CIL Spending Protocol affords local communities financial support to get their projects off the ground. Community 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 bid.

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 £607,495

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, Romsey Extra, Andover Town, Longparish, Charlton, Ampfield, Braishfield, Valley Park and Over Wallop.

13 Conclusion

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

- Plaza Theatre Stage House Rebuild – £200,000

- Longparish Playground Redevelopment – £40,000
- Access Improvements at Charlton Lakes – £100,355
- Ampfield Recreation Ground – £66,432
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Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Reference the 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:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor N Adams-King			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	6 November 2019