

**Report for: Planning Policy
Advisory Panel**

Date of Meeting:	3 October 2022
Subject:	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Processes Review – proposed scope
Key Decision:	No –but note the Report is for information only
Responsible Officer:	David Hughes – Planning Policy Manager
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Marilyn Ashton, Deputy Leader of the Council, Planning & Regeneration Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix A - CIL Balance Overview Appendix B – Previous Years NCIL & BCIL Actual Spend Appendix C – Committed BCIL Allocations for FY23/24 (excluding any carry forwards from previous financial years) Appendix D - Example of Best Practice: Lewisham London Borough

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the context, tasks and options associated with a proposed review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) processes in the borough. It provides the Panel with an opportunity to make comment on the proposed review to inform its scope and approach, consistent with the Panel’s Terms of Reference.

Recommendations:

The Planning Policy Advisory Panel is requested to:

- A. Note the report and the proposed review of CIL processes
- B. Provide comment and feedback on the report to help inform the review.

Reason:

It is considered prudent to review the CIL process as it has been in place for almost five years.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the current Harrow Council CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) allocations process and outlines the intention to review this, including broad matters to be considered. The report intends to provide a template for discussion of the review with stakeholders, including the Planning Policy Advisory Panel, corporate leadership and council Members. This report is to notify Planning Policy Advisory Panel of the review. Under the Panel's Terms of Reference, the Panel is to (3) give detailed consideration to and make recommendations to Cabinet in respect of ... (a) The use of the Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) funds.

2.0 Options Considered

Option 1: Business as Usual Approach – No Change

- 2.1 The first option involves retaining the current CIL allocation processes. The ward boundaries will need to be adapted to the new wards regardless, so this aspect of the review will need to be undertaken. There would be no change made to the current way that Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL) allocations are consulted on. Currently ward councillors nominate projects for NCIL allocations (having had regard to the priorities of residents although this may not always be the case as there is no formal mechanism to do this).

Option 2: Undertake the CIL Review (as outlined in this report).

- 2.2 Undertake the full CIL and S106 process review, including a review of all CIL and s106 balances and commitments, reallocation of CIL ward boundaries, drafting of new CIL allocation processes and NCIL community consultation methods.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is essentially a tax on new development that is used to fund the infrastructure required to support development in the borough, and ensure that there is no detriment to infrastructure standards caused by intensified use of an area. It is typically collected as a payment from the site developer (when the

development commences), pooled with other CIL receipts and allocated to infrastructure projects by the Council. The levy rates are charged in accordance with the Council's adopted CIL Charging Schedule (Sept 2013) with rates required to be set at levels that don't result in development becoming unviable. CIL charging rates are subject to indexation annually in accordance with the CIL Regulations.

3.2 In December 2017, Harrow Council adopted a cabinet report outlining the process for CIL allocations in line with recommendations from the (former) Major Developments Panel. Harrow has now had the benefit of five years of implementation with the current processes.

3.3 In the five years since the adoption of this process the borough has gone through a number of changes, namely a change in administration and changes to ward boundaries. For this reason, officers have proposed a review of the current process to ensure that they are achieving the council's objectives and providing the best possible outcomes for the community.

3.4 Appendix A provides an indication of recent levels of CIL income and expenditure, and current balances, for context (see section 4 below for explanation of BCIL / NCIL). Appendix B shows recent expenditure / commitments (i.e. allocated and / or partially spent funds). Appendix C shows BCIL allocations for 2023/24 (as per the current capital programme).

3.5 Initial discussions have been held with relevant Portfolio Holders in the new administration. Additional internal consultation will be required with departments that have interests in CIL allocation, process administration, project delivery and prioritisation of projects. The interested parties fall into three categories including:

- (a) 'Governance' (Planning, Finance, Legal, Portfolio Holders),
- (b) 'Administration' (Planning, Community Engagement, Economic Development, Finance) and
- (c) 'Delivery' (Service Areas delivering infrastructure capable of being funded under the CIL Regulations).

3.6 Most importantly the review will need to solidify a clear set of roles and responsibilities for Members (Portfolio Holders, ward Councillors), corporate leadership, departments and officers, and articulate the allocations process.

4.0 Scope and Mechanism Relationships

4.1 The proposed review will examine the role of the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), Borough Community Infrastructure Levy (BCIL) and S106 'Planning Obligation' Agreements. The current definitions of these aspects are derived from the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended).

- 4.2 A minimum of 15% of CIL funds received through the levy (subject to a cap of £100 per dwelling in the local area) must be spent on projects that take account of the views of the communities in which development has taken place ('Neighbourhood CIL') (NCIL) and 'supports the development of the area' in which the CIL is generated. (Note, is 25% in areas covered by neighbourhood plans, but there are none of these in Harrow). NCIL spending should be allocated in consultation with the local community. Many boroughs do this through direct community consultation, while Harrow utilises ward members as the means of consultation with the community by requiring support of any project from the majority of relevant ward members (and also often as a means of project identification).
- 4.3 The remaining CIL balance (excluding administration costs) is referred to as 'Borough CIL' (BCIL) and may be spent anywhere in the borough, provided it supports infrastructure development within the borough.
- 4.4 Contributions from S106 agreements are tied to planning permissions and typically have legal constraints stipulating what the funds can be spent on. They essentially secure obligations from developments that are required to make the development acceptable in planning terms (i.e. highways works, securing affordable housing). A review of current S106 balances will be undertaken to determine what balances are ringfenced for specific projects. Spending of S106 balances should be prioritised as the agreements typically include obligations on the Council to spend any contributions within a certain period (generally between five and ten years) or the Council may need to return the contribution.
- 4.5 A CIL forecast will be produced to predict levels of income from developments over the next five years providing a rough indication of what the council can expect to see as income. This will allow the council to start prioritising which infrastructure projects will be funded. Any forecast will be indicative only as the level of CIL received is dependent on the rate and type of development that comes forward and can be subject to mandatory relief from paying CIL (i.e. affordable housing).
- 4.6 It is important to note that no changes are currently being proposed to the CIL charging schedule, only the methods of funding allocation and processes.

5.0 Current Processes

Borough CIL (BCIL)

- 5.1 The allocation of the Borough Community Infrastructure Levy (BCIL) forms part of the Annual Budget Setting process and is included in the Capital Programme report which is presented to Cabinet every year in December (draft budget) and February (final budget). The allocation of

the Borough CIL is informed by the Harrow Local Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Corporate Priorities and external funding opportunities and has regard to the criteria outlined in the report considered by the Major Developments Panel and Cabinet (these largely reflect the CIL Regulations and National Planning Practice Guidance as to the purpose of CIL and how it should be spent).

- 5.2 The Council have already identified a number of CIL allocations for future financial years as part of the Capital Programme. These allocations are dependent on the Council having sufficient CIL receipts to cover planned expenditure (see Appendix C).

Neighbourhood CIL

- 5.3 NCIL represents the allocation of 15% of CIL receipts raised in each Ward back to the respective Ward in which it was generated (except where received from within the geographical definition of the Harrow and Wealdstone Opportunity Area) (note, this area is that covered by the Harrow and Wealdstone AAP and is not a neighbourhood area). For CIL received within the geographical definition of the Harrow and Wealdstone Opportunity Area, NCIL involves the allocation of 15% of CIL receipts into a combined fund to be spent on projects across the entire area. This reflects that the area contains a greater proportion of the strategic development sites within the borough.

- 5.4 The broad allocation of Neighbourhood CIL is agreed as part of the Capital Programme (based on available funds at the time and allocated as noted above) and included in the Capital Programme report which is presented to Cabinet every year in December (draft budget) and February (final budget). Once the broad allocation of NCIL is agreed as part of the Capital Programme, individual projects put forward by the relevant Directorates / Ward Members are assessed against the criteria outlined in the report to the Major Development Panel / Cabinet (including the extent of consultation and level of community support). The final decision regarding which projects are funded from the agreed NCIL allocations is delegated to the Chief Planning Officer following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Regeneration and Planning, and Finance and Commercialisation.

6.0 Ward Boundaries

- 6.1 New ward boundaries were introduced at the May 2022 Council elections by the Boundary Commission, which require calibration with NCIL ward balances (based on the former wards / boundaries). The process for allocation of funds must align with ward boundaries. Initial steps have been made to aligning the allocations to ward boundaries through **land area**, as it was previously done. Consideration is required to ascertain whether this method is the most appropriate way to re-allocate receipts to the new wards (for example, other boroughs use population).

7.0 Best Practice

- 7.1 The CIL allocation review should take account of current best practice, particularly concerning the scope of projects which can utilise NCIL and engagement methods for NCIL allocation. A thorough review of best practice CIL allocation processes will be undertaken to inform the review and subsequent recommendations to the Panel and Cabinet.
- 7.2 Many best practice boroughs utilise online engagement platforms like Engagement HQ or Commonplace to consult the community directly about what they would like to spend NCIL on. This requires little officer time to set up and can be an excellent way to empower citizens to put forward projects that they are passionate about. Typically, best practice creates new NCIL areas which are larger than wards to allocate funds. An example of Best Practice is attached at Appendix D.

8.0 Current CIL Charging Schedule

- 8.1 Harrow's current Charging Schedule came into effect on 1 October 2013. By way of comparison, most West London boroughs adopted their first / current schedules at around the same time (Brent – July 2013, Barnet – May 2013, Hammersmith and Fulham – September 2015, Hillingdon – September 2014 and Hounslow – July 2014). Ealing has not adopted a CIL charging schedule but is progressing one. Barnet is the only West London borough to have adopted a new (second) charging schedule, doing so in March 2022.
- 8.2 Whilst the Harrow schedule was adopted in 2013, the rates are subject to indexation (based on RICS construction costs) which currently adds circa 50% to the original charges. In setting charging schedules, rates cannot be set at levels that make development unviable. This is tested through detailed development viability appraisals and subject to independent examination. The viability appraisals need to reflect any Local Plan requirements and therefore preparation of a new charging schedule typically occurs in parallel with the Local Plans process so as to reflect any new policy requirements in the emerging Local Plan.

9.0 Programme

- 9.1 The review has commenced and is in its first phase which seeks guidance from Members and council departments to set the scope of the review. The review will require a draft to be completed in November 2022 to align with the release of the latest iteration of the Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- (a) Phase 1: Consultation with Members and Council departments (Sept-October 2022)
 - (b) Phase 2: Review S106 balances and expiration dates, undertake a CIL income forecast (September-October 2022)

- (c) Phase 3: Develop proposals to realign NCIL balances to new ward boundaries (October 2022)
- (d) Phase 4: Draft new CIL allocation processes (November 2022)
- (e) Phase 5: Adopt new CIL allocation processes. (November-December 2022)

9.2 In the interim, whilst the review is being undertaken (including agreeing a process of re-allocating NCIL balances from former wards to new wards), there is a moratorium on the consideration of new applications for NCIL funding.

Ward Councillors' comments – none sought as report is for information purposes at this stage and impacts upon all wards

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

There are no significant risks arising from the recommendations – information report only.

Legal Implications

CIL is a planning charge that was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 Part II to help deliver infrastructure to support the development in an area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 as amended (“the Regulations”). Section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008 lists some examples of infrastructure which CIL can fund. i.e. roads and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreation facilities and open spaces.

On 1 September 2019, the Regulations were amended under The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 (“2019 Regulation”). Part 10A of the 2019 Regulation requires the Council to publish “annual CIL rate summary” and “annual infrastructure funding statements”. These statements replaced previous Regulation 123 lists. The “annual infrastructure funding statement” must include a number of matters listed in the new Schedule 2 including details of how much money has been raised through developer contributions and how it has been spent. Both the “annual rate CIL summary” and the “annual infrastructure funding statement” must be published on the Council’s websites at least once a year.

The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations and the National Planning Practice Guidance set a framework in which CIL receipts need to be spent. Establishing a robust mechanism for the allocation of CIL seeks to ensure requirements are complied with, and links expenditure to supporting new development in the borough. A transparent mechanism also provides opportunity for input from stakeholders.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced requirements that a 'meaningful proportion' of CIL income is allocated to parish councils to support their neighbourhood infrastructure requirements. Regulation 59F enables a similar application of CIL receipts in cases where, as in Harrow, a charging authority does not have a local council structure.

Under Regulation 59A(5) at least 15% of CIL funds received through the levy (subject to a cap of £100 per dwelling in the local area) must be spent on projects that take account of the views of the communities in which development has taken place ('Neighbourhood CIL') (NCIL) and supports the development of the area in which the CIL is generated. The percentage is more (25%) if there is a neighbourhood plan or a neighbourhood development order. The balance (excluding administration top slice) is commonly referred to as 'Borough CIL' (BCIL) and can be spent anywhere in the borough, provided it supports development within the borough.

Under the Regulations, regulation 59F(3) prescribes how the neighbourhood CIL may be used in these circumstances and provides that it may use the CIL to support the development of the relevant area by funding:

- (1) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure: or
- (2) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

The CIL Regulations are legally binding and set out the framework and processes through which CIL collection and expenditure should take place. The CIL Guidelines accompany the CIL Regulations and provide further guidance on the processes of allocating CIL. There is statutory requirement that the Council as charging authorities must have regard to the government 'CIL Guidance'.

The National Planning Practice Guidance states that 'The law does not prescribe a specific process for agreeing how the neighbourhood portion (NCIL) should be spent. Charging authorities should use existing community consultation and engagement processes. This should include working with any designated neighbourhood forums preparing neighbourhood plans that exist in the area, theme specific neighbourhood groups, local businesses (particularly those working on business led neighbourhood plans) and using networks that ward councillors use. Crucially this consultation should be at the neighbourhood level. It should be proportionate to the level of levy receipts and the scale of the proposed development to which the neighbourhood funding relates'.

The CIL Guidance provides additional guidance on how neighbourhood CIL funds should be used where there is no local council in place. Paragraph 146 of the CIL Guidance states that the "charging authority...should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding". Charging authorities should set out clearly and transparently their approach to engaging with neighbourhoods, using their regular communication tools for example, website, newsletters, etc. The CIL Guidance goes on to explain that the use of neighbourhood CIL funds

should match priorities expressed by local communities, which should be obtained through consultation undertaken “at the neighbourhood level”. This does not necessarily prevent the Council from allocating neighbourhood CIL funds to borough wide (or larger) projects or initiatives, providing that they meet the requirement in regulation 59F. If the Council decides to depart from the CIL Guidance (i.e. by not allocating funds in accordance with priorities expressed by local communities), it should have and give clear and proper reasons for doing so.

To note that at the Cabinet meeting on 23 June 2022, the Cabinet resolved to make amendments to the Council's Constitution to remove The Major Development Panel and that the Planning Policy Advisory Panel be appointed with the membership and the Terms of Reference be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly. This enables the Planning Policy Advisory Panel:

3. To give detailed consideration to and make recommendations to Cabinet in respect of:
 - (a) The use of the Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) funds;
 - (b) Reviewing and commenting upon changes to the CIL Charging Schedule and S106 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPG)."

Financial Implications

The cost of undertaking the review will be met from within the existing revenue budget of the Planning Policy Team. The financial implications of any recommendations arising from the review will be reported in any subsequent report to the Panel / Cabinet.

In general terms however, notwithstanding the review, the process of levying and collecting CIL from development will remain the same. The scope of the review is focused on the allocation of CIL receipts (including the need for existing NCIL balances to be realigned to new ward boundaries).

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Was an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) carried out? Not at this stage as report is for information only. Depending on the outcomes of the review, an EqIA may need to be undertaken.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Jessie Mann

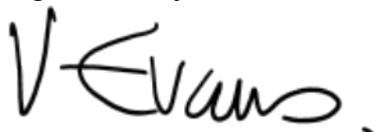
Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 22 September 2022 – by email

Statutory Officer: Jimmy Walsh
Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 22 September 2022 – by email

Chief Officer:
Signed off by the Chief Planning Officer



Date: 21 September 2022

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqlA carried out: NO - Not at this stage as report is for information only. Depending on the outcomes of the review, an EqlA may need to be undertaken

EqlA cleared by: N/A

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: David Hughes, Policy Planning Manager, 0208 736 6082, David.Hughes@harrow.gov.uk.

Background Papers:

[Harrow Council Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) Annual CIL Rate Summary – 2022](#)

Cabinet Report - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – proposed allocations process – 2017 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday 7 December 2017, 6.30 pm – Harrow Council](#) (see item 635).

APPENDIX A – CIL BALANCE OVERVIEW

	19/20 Income	19/20 Expend.	Balance as at 31.03.20	20/21 Income	20/21 Expend.	Balance as at 31.03.21	21/22 Income	21/22 Expend.	Balance as at 31.03.22	Outstanding Commitment (Future years)	Available Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BCIL	-2,062,942	2,967,559	-5,626,706	-1,741,108	2,788,690	-4,579,123	-1,948,063	1,756,361	-4,770,826	10,662,958	5,892,132
NCIL	-386,802	661,603	-1,869,598	-326,458	321,542	-1,874,514	-365,262	171,351	-2,068,425	762,635	-1,305,790

Note: negative figures equate to income or 'available' balance, positive figures relate to expenditure / commitments or 'balance deficit' (i.e. reliant on future income to fund commitments).

APPENDIX B – PREVIOUS YEARS NCIL & BCIL SPEND (2019/20-2021/22)

Financial year (approved)	Description	BCIL	NCIL	19/20 Actual Exp	20/21 Actual Exp	21/22 Actual Exp	Outstanding commitment
2019/20	Parks Infrastructure (Playground replacement)	350,000		227,458	122,542		0
2019/20	Harrow Arts Centre - refurbishment & new build	1,150,000		71,737	841,490	26,978	209,795
2019/20	Weald Village playground equipment		17,871				17,871
2019/20	Sudbury Hill step-free access	50,000					50,000
2019/20	Flood Defence	300,000		300,000			0
2019/20	Highway Drainage	200,000		199,999			1
2019/20	Green Grid	75,000		39,761	35,239		0
2019/20	New Town Centre Library	2,090,000		1,569,662	520,338		0
2019/20	Canons Ward - Various infrastructure improvements		£211,424	211,423			1
2019/20	Stanmore Ward - Various infrastructure improvements		£134,642	108,316	6,615		19,711
2019/20	Wealdstone - Infrastructure, and streetscene improvements in the in the vicinity of Wealdstone Town Centre		£16,610	176	12,000		4,434

Financial year (approved)	Description	BCIL	NCIL	19/20 Actual Exp	20/21 Actual Exp	21/22 Actual Exp	Outstanding commitment
2019/20	Roxbourne - Infrastructure and streetscene improvements around the Kings Road / Eastcote Lane junction		158,360	140,072	16,364		1,924
2019/20	Roxeth - Festive Lighting		25,966	13,305			12,661
2019/20	Greenhill OA - Changing Places toilet		35,000		35,000		0
2019/20	Wealdstone - Murals		60,000		48,511	2,085	9,404
2019/20	Stanmore Ward - Safety and infrastructure improvement		32,431	8,627		475	23,329
2020/21	Parks Infrastructure (Playground replacement)	250,000			204,329		45,671
2020/21	Flood Defence	300,000			300,000		0
2020/21	Highway Drainage	200,000			149,607	38,067	12,326
2020/21	Green Grid	150,000			150,000		0
2020/21	Headstone Manor (Flood alleviation scheme)	500,000			30,574	469,426	0
2020/21	Harrow Arts Centre Capital Infrastructure	300,000			266,212	11,201	22,587
2020/21	Harrow Arts Centre - refurbishment & new build	599,000					599,000
2020/21	Harrow Town War Memorial		31,900		23,559		8,341
2020/21	Creation and establishment of a Longhorn cattle herd in Bentley Priory		32,860		15,000	10,000	7,860
2020/21	High Street Fund	250,000			152,733	97,267	0
2020/21	Stanmore Ward - Dennis Lane Traffic Calming		20,000			237	19,763
2020/21	Stanmore Marsh and Brockley Hill Open Space		23,000				23,000
2021/22	Green Grid	150,000				130,270	19,730
2021/22	Flood Defence & Highway Drainage	500,000				414,953	85,047
2021/22	Wealdstone Major Transport Infrastructure projects - Bus Improvement	900,000					900,000
2021/22	Harrow Arts Centre - refurbishment & new build	1,177,000					1,177,000

Financial year (approved)	Description	BCIL	NCIL	19/20 Actual Exp	20/21 Actual Exp	21/22 Actual Exp	Outstanding commitment
2021/22	High Street Fund	1,300,000				568,199	731,801
2021/22	Stanmore - Improvement of infrastructure in support of biodiversity and public amenity at Harrow's only wildlife Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Bentley Priory.		10,400			2,945	7,455
2021/22	Lowlands - Installation Toddlers play area, Seniors play area and 2 table tennis		134,229			134,229	0
2021/22	Wealdstone NCIL – mobile CCTV camera		9,738				9,738
2021/22	Headstone South - North Harrow Community Library lighting		2,000				2,000
2021/22	15 x Mobile CCTVs (11 wards)		105,030				105,030
2021/22	Wealdstone - Infrastructure, and streetscene improvements in the in the vicinity of Wealdstone Town Centre		£25,310				25,310
2021/22	Refurbishment of Chandos Recreation Ground		18,707				18,707
2021/22	Bins in Church Fields		1,872				1,872
2021/22	Bins in The Grove		3,120				3,120
2021/22	Harrow Arts Centre – Green Belt footpath and biodiversity enhancements		87,000				87,000
2021/22	Opportunity Area NCIL (Harrow Town Centre) - Harrow Town Centre Murals (4 murals) project		70,000				70,000
2021/22	Kenton Lane Bridge (1 mural) project		20,000				20,000
2021/22	Pinner Hill Estate – restoration of Children's Play Area project		25,000				25,000
2021/22	Roxbourne Park – Yeading Brook Path (seats / handrails) project		3,580				3,580
2021/22	Harrow on the Hill - Churchfields bins		1,248				1,248

Financial year (approved)	Description	BCIL	NCIL	19/20 Actual Exp	20/21 Actual Exp	21/22 Actual Exp	Outstanding commitment
2021/22	Wealdstone – murals, features, festive lighting and artistic bridge improvements		103,000			18,725	84,275

APPENDIX C – COMMITTED BCIL ALLOCATIONS FOR FY23/24 (excluding any carry forwards from previous financial years)

Financial year	Description	BCIL	Actual or Committed	Ward	Outstanding commitment
2023/24	Wealdstone Major Transport Infrastructure projects -Liveable Neighbourhood	0	N/A	In 20/21 Capital Programme	0
2023/24	Green Grid	150,000	Committed	In 2021/22 Capital Programme	150,000
2023/24	Flood Defence & Highway Drainage	500,000	Committed	In 2021/22 Capital Programme	500,000
2023/24	High Street Fund	1,000,000	Committed	In 2021/22 Capital Programme	1,000,000
2023/24	Wealdstone Future High Street Fund	1,760,000	Committed	In 2021/22 Final Capital Programme	1,760,000

APPENDIX D - EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE: LEWISHAM LONDON BOROUGH

What is NCIL?

The Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) is a community funding programme that uses money collected from developers.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a non-negotiable charge that developers pay to councils on most new developments. It is used to deliver the infrastructure needed to support development.

NCIL projects are submitted by the community on the Commonplace Engagement Platform which actively empowers the community to get involved in the processes and submit projects that are meaningful to them. The community often come up with projects that people in the council may not have local scale knowledge of.

Investment can include:

- community facilities
- parks and open spaces
- transport improvements.

A portion of CIL can be set aside to be spent on neighbourhood priorities, known as NCIL. NCIL money has to be spent to support the development of the area. It can be spent on infrastructure, or anything else that supports the demands that development places on an area.

In Lewisham there are two NCIL funds:

- Ward NCIL funds projects that are intended to benefit one of Lewisham's 18 individual wards
- Borough-wide NCIL funds projects that will benefit two or more wards in the borough or the borough as a whole

Borough-Wide NCIL projects supported: Report November 2021

122 applications were received with requested funding of over £4.7 million for the NCIL funding pot of £877.094.

On 3 November 2021, Mayor and Cabinet agreed 25 community projects focused on four main priorities;

- Supporting local community groups to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Providing high quality mentoring services to keep Lewisham's children and young people safe from exploitation, violence and serious youth crime;
- Supporting people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems to find employment opportunities;
- Assisting Lewisham's COVID-19 recovery by demonstrating a benefit to Lewisham's communities at a borough wide level.

Successful projects

Funding category up to 10k

1. Volunteer Manager - Refugee Café
2. Project-Based Family Learning Sessions - Oaks and Acorns in Harmony
3. Budding Buddies - Catbytes C.I.C
4. Specialist counselling support and advice for survivors of abuse in the home - One in Four (London)
5. Music together - Give a Song
6. Get Creative Young Lewisham - Inspiring Your Imagination Ltd
7. Facework conversations - Facework C.I.C
8. Fix and ride - Lewisham Cyclists, London Cycling Campaign
9. Buddying Scheme for disabled people - Buddies for All

Funding category from 10k to 35k

1. Telephone and Digital Employability Service - Afghanistan and Central Asian Association
2. Step Up Progression Training Programme - Lewisham Youth Theatre
3. Monday project - Lewisham Pensioner Forum

Funding category from 35k to 50k

1. Risk and Resilience - Metro Centre Ltd
2. Covid Recovery Project - Contact
3. Building People, Changing Minds (Learning Disabilities & Mental Health)- Lewisham Local (RGTB)
4. Building People, Changing Minds (Refugees & Migrants) - Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
5. Young Lewisham Leaders - Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Grove Park Youth Club BPT
6. Return to Meet me - Entelechy Arts
7. Resilient Youth - Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts
8. Watergate Sensory Garden – Watergate School and Lewisham Council
9. Inclusive Enterprise Generator - Ignition Brewery Ltd

Funding category from 50k to 100k

1. Lewisham Line Befriending - Voluntary Services Lewisham
2. Pathways to Employment - Sydenham Garden
3. Lewisham Community Mentoring, Outreach and Detached Service - Spark2life and Greenleaf trust
4. Power the Fight: Therapeutic Intervention for Peace, Lewisham (TIP)