



Meeting	Winchester Town Forum
Date and Time	Monday, 9th March, 2026 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Walton Suite, Winchester Guildhall and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc

Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that a live video feed of the meeting will be available from the council's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/winchestercc) during the meeting.

A limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those wishing to attend and address the meeting over those wishing to attend and observe.

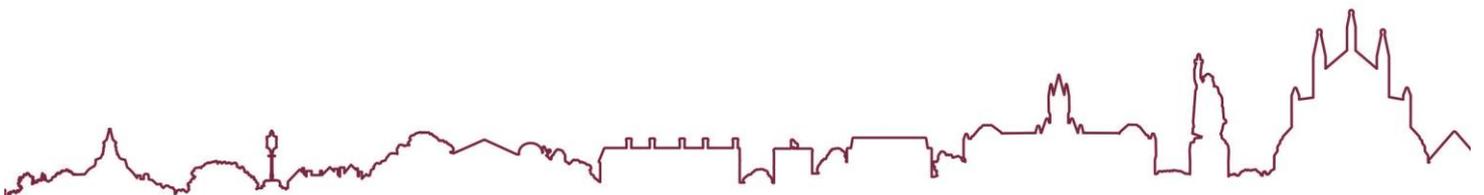
AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
To record the names of apologies given
- 2. Disclosures of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Councillors or Officers in matters to be discussed.

Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs), other registerable interests (ORIs) and non-registerable interests (NRIs) in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

If you require advice, please contact the appropriate Democratic Services Officer, prior to the meeting.

- 3. Chairperson's Announcements**
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2026 (Pages 5 - 14)**
That the minutes of the meeting be signed as a correct record.



5. **Public Participation**

To receive and note the questions asked and statements made from members of the public on issues relating to the responsibility of this Forum.

Members of the public and visiting councillors may speak at the Forum, provided they have registered to speak three working days in advance. Please contact Democratic Services **by 5pm on Tuesday, 3 March 2026** via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

6. **Update from Sarah Davis, Business Improvement District (BID)**

7. **Town Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation for Youth Provision (WTF343) (Pages 15 - 22)**

8. **Informal Groups - Verbal Updates**

Optional: The Chairs of any of the informal groups may briefly update the Forum on any recent developments from their group.

9. **To note the meeting dates for the forum in 2026/27**

- 8 June 2026
- 10 September 2026
- 9 November 2026
- 21 January 2027
- 8 March 2027

**Laura Taylor
Chief Executive**

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26 February 2026

Agenda Contact: Claire Buchanan, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01962 848 438 Email: cbuchanan@winchester.gov.uk

**With the exception of exempt items, Agenda, reports and previous minutes are available on the Council's [Website](#)*

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson: Westwood (Liberal Democrats)

Vice-Chairperson: Eve (Liberal Democrats)

Liberal Democrats

Aron
Batho
Becker
Learney
Morris
Murphy
Reach
Scott
Tippett-Cooper
Thompson
Tod
Wise

Conservatives

Quorum = 5 members

The two County Council Members representing the Winchester Town area are invited as observers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public question and comment session is available at 6.30pm for a 15 minute period. There are a few limitations on the questions you can ask. These mainly relate to current applications (including grants), personal cases and confidential matters.

To reserve your place to speak, you are asked to register with Democratic Services three clear working days prior to the meeting –Please contact Democratic Services via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

VOTING

- apart from the Chairperson, every Member has one vote when a matter before the meeting requires a decision.
- in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote and that vote may be exercised in any way seen fit.
- a Member may abstain from voting, or vote differently from how they may have indicated during the debate, without further explanation.

The way each Member voted will not be recorded in the minutes, unless a motion to have a Recorded Vote has been passed.

Disabled Access

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk three clear working days prior to the meeting to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live from the Council's YouTube channel. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution for further information, which is available to view on the [Council's website](#). Please note that the video recording is subtitled, but you may have to enable your device to see them (advice on how to do this is on the meeting page).

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

Thursday, 22 January 2026

Attendance:

Councillors

Westwood (Chairperson)

Eve
Aron
Batho
Becker
Learney
Morris

Murphy
Reach
Tippett-Cooper
Tod
Wise

[Full video recording](#)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scott and Thompson.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillors Tod declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Item 7 on the agenda due to his role as a Hampshire County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Audit and Governance Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made at this meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2025 be approved and adopted.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public addressed the Forum during public participation. A summary of their comments are set out below:

Fred White

He raised concerns regarding the clearance of fallen leaves, noting that they become dangerous slipping hazards, particularly during periods of frost, and also reported issues in relation to overgrown vegetation. Mr White reported that this was a particular issue in areas such as Sussex Street, College Street and Gladstone Street and he sought the forum's support in encouraging the council to clear these areas of fallen leaves and weed debris on a regular basis.

In response, the challenges of leaf clearance were acknowledged. Leaf clearance schedules were in place for priority roads, covering approximately 176 roads across the district. The difficulty of timing these clearances perfectly due to changing seasonal patterns was noted. Large sweeping crews were managing roads during the sweeping season, with pavements swept year-round in the town centre.

The forum advised that a spreadsheet was available on the website detailing the specific dates when various roads were scheduled for clearance and encouraged use of the "Clean My Street" app for areas not on the priority list. It was recommended that residents contact their local ward councillor with a reference number if the council was unresponsive to an initial report.

Ian Tait

- He expressed that while many councils across the country have ceased providing public lavatories, he considered this a retrograde step and one that should not be considered for Winchester, but emphasised that if the council does provide facilities, they must be maintained to a high standard.
- Reference was made to the baby changing facilities in Market Lane which had been locked for several years due to anti-social behaviour, drug paraphernalia, and safety concerns for both parents and staff.
- He suggested that existing external CCTV and facial recognition technology should be used to monitor and identify the small number of individuals responsible for vandalising the Market Lane facilities.
- He raised concern that the three new lavatories built in River Park have been out of action due to vandalism for longer than they have been available.
- In conclusion, he expressed concern that the Middle Brook Street lavatories in the base of the Brooks Centre have been locked for approximately ten years due to anti-social behaviour, despite previous officer assurances that they would be brought back into use and stated that if the council aimed to be inclusive, it must find a way to bring these facilities back into use for the wider community.

In response, it was noted that significant investment had recently been made into Market Lane, Abbey Gardens, and the Chesil public car park within the city centre, to ensure these toilet facilities were in excellent condition. The long-standing issues with anti-social behaviour at the Market Lane baby changing facility were acknowledged which was difficult to secure due to being a large, lockable room with no permanent staffing, lacking the security of a radar key. The forum confirmed that the baby changing table had now been moved into the ladies' toilet in Market Lane, with no suitable space for a similar facility in the men's toilet.

The upcoming refurbishment of the toilets in the Brooks Centre was announced, which would include baby changing facilities and the first "Changing Places" toilet in that part of the city. The Chair agreed to investigate the specific background regarding the problems at River Park and ask the relevant questions after the meeting.

6. **UPDATE ON POLICING IN WINCHESTER (VERBAL UPDATE)**

The Chairperson welcomed Chief Inspector Korine Bishop of Hampshire Constabulary to the meeting who provided a verbal update on the latest position regarding policing in the Winchester town area, as summarised below:

It was reported that the Police Crime Commissioner had permitted Hampshire Constabulary to increase as a force from 99 to 114 'local bobbies' during the current financial year to increase visibility in rural communities. Winchester, Hart, East Hants, New Forest, Basingstoke and the Isle Wight Districts were highlighted as locations that would see investment. Winchester district had received an increase of three rural local police officers which had been placed in Alresford and Bishops Waltham. It was noted that Bishops Waltham Police Station would be reopening in March with a newly renovated front office.

Chief Inspector Bishop provided detail surrounding recent crime statistics reported since April 2025 and formal action taken in respect of current district priorities, such as anti-social behaviour and shoplifting in the town centre outlining the continued work with the community safety partnership and the BID rangers to patrol the high street, crime within Winchester prison system, drug supply and usage and the action taken to disrupt and stop drug supply, and robbery and shoplifting.

Several members of the forum had submitted questions for response by Chief Inspector Bishop at the meeting. In addition, the forum proceeded to ask further questions and comment on the following matters which were responded to by Chief Inspector Bishop, as summarised below:

1. A question was asked regarding the theft of pedal bikes and electric bikes, specifically concerning prosecution rates. Chief Inspector Bishop stated that 35 pedal bike theft offences were recorded since April, though data for the railway station was held by the British Transport Police. It was noted that no convictions were achieved to date because of identification issues and the poor quality of available CCTV footage. Further clarification was sought regarding the rapid closure of these cases and the expectations for recovering stolen items. In response, it was explained that crimes were triaged for viable lines of inquiry and that local spikes in theft were treated as priorities.
2. Information was requested about antisocial behaviour involving children kicking doors. It was reported that police community support officers and police officers identified a group of children responsible for repeated issues, including egg throwing. The meeting was informed that these individuals would be processed through a community court or requested to sign acceptable behaviour contracts.

3. An enquiry was made about the security of the River Park building. It was confirmed that a partnership plan was established between the police, the council, and the fire service to address break-ins and arson. Measures included extra patrols and the installation of internal motion sensors and cameras to provide immediate notification of intruders.
4. A question was raised regarding a series of parcel thefts reported during the summer months. It was noted that over 100 reports were received in September, leading to a significant spike in theft figures. Although one individual was arrested, they were released without further action due to insufficient evidence for prosecution. It was stated that the police pushed back on the delivery company to address internal accountability and audit trails.
5. Concerns were expressed regarding road traffic collisions and speeding on various roads, including Badger Farm Road and Hyde Street. Chief Inspector Bishop noted that police data showed five incidents on Middle Brook Street and that a review of Badger Farm Road was ongoing. Further clarification was sought on whether speed indicator devices could address vehicle speeds. The response suggested that community-led speed watch schemes provided necessary evidence for police deployments.
6. A question was asked about the types of drugs involved in possession offences and current trends. It was stated that most offences related to cocaine and cannabis. Further clarification was sought on how public reports of drug activity were utilised as intelligence. It was explained that such information helped build a broader picture for investigations, even when immediate updates to the reporter were not possible.
7. An enquiry was made as to whether individuals found inside the River Park building could be prosecuted for a criminal offence. It was noted that prosecution for burglary or damage required specific points of proof and that simple entry might be considered civil trespass.
8. A question was asked regarding drug use hotspots and the safest methods for residents to report activity. It was confirmed that hotspots were monitored through patrols. Reporting methods included 999 for emergencies, 101, online platforms, or anonymous reports via Crimestoppers.
9. Information was sought regarding the police response to vehicles parking on pavements and blocking roads. It was stated that such matters were typically referred back to the council.
10. A question was raised about the appropriate use of 999 versus 101 for reporting concerns. It was advised that 999 was the correct choice when individuals were in danger or when a caller felt concerned for the wellbeing of others.

11. An enquiry was made regarding the rise in cybercrime and smartphone use among school children. It was noted that cybercrime was a growing crime type and that officers worked with schools to educate children on online safety and identifying risks.
12. A question was asked about addressing graffiti and tagging on public property, such as cabinets and bridges. It was suggested that these incidents be reported to the council for removal to prevent the "broken window effect". The response also mentioned that work within schools aimed to educate children on the consequences of crime.

At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Chairperson thanked Chief Inspector Bishop for attending the meeting to provide an informative update on the latest police position for the area.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received, and the comments raised by the committee and the responses provided, as summarised above, be noted.

7. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR 2026/27 (TO BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET) (WTF342)**

Councillor Learney introduced the report as Chairperson of the Town Account Informal Group who reviewed the current financial projections for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30, noting the need to recommend a budget and town charge to Cabinet. Changes to the budget this year included savings from the night bus service, which was now entirely commercial and responsibility for bus shelters had been transferred to Hampshire County Council.

It was proposed that cuts to community grants that had been previously planned would be reversed, keeping them at the current level for 2026/27 onwards and the continued support proposed to those in need, local cultural activities and small community organisations operating within the town was emphasised. In addition, reference was made to the towns share of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, the proposed use of remaining s106 sport contributions, capital expenditure and reserves.

The forum noted that financial projections reflected a core precept increase of 5% for 2026/27 which, if proposed, would be recommended to Cabinet in February. The town precept charge for council tax continued to remain lower than that of market towns across the district.

In addition, the Finance Manager (Strategic Finance) reported an omission to the recommendations set out in the report, that it was proposed that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Head of Economy and Community to accept circa £11,000 of grant funding towards the installation of an artificial cricket wicket at the River Park Pavilion. Furthermore, it was noted that resurfacing works of circa £5,000 would be required in 8-10 years and funding would need to be sourced should the wicket continue to be used.

The forum proceeded to ask questions and comment on the following matters which were responded to by Councillor Learney and the Finance Manager (Strategic Finance).

- (a) A question was raised regarding areas of the town that were under served by buses, notably Teg Down, but it was recognised that the sums needed to close these gaps would require further investigation.
- (b) The exploratory work for the implementation of speed indicator devices was welcomed. A request was raised that given resident demand, and the need to anticipate the budget for installation, that the work be timetabled for the initial stages of the new municipal year. In response, the Strategic Director emphasised that no commitment to timescales could be provided at this stage as resources would need to be scheduled and looked at within officers existing work and service plans. However, the Strategic Director agreed to progress this matter to ensure it was added into the business plan, with the request of the forum that the work take place during 2026/27 noted.
- (c) Members welcomed the investment in the provision of sport facilities in the area. In addition, the forum fully supported the retention of the grants budget and urged any community organisations in the town area to come forward and apply for the grants that are available.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft budget for 2026/27 and the indicative projections for the strategy period as shown in Appendix 1, be agreed;
2. That an increase to the council tax precept for the town area of 5% for 2026/27 be recommended to cabinet, noting the requirements for the council to keep within overall referendum requirements;
3. That the Corporate Head of Economy and Community be granted delegated authority to approve the grant criteria and allocations, in consultation with the Winchester Town Forum (Grants and Community Empowerment) Informal Group and the Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities;
4. That the £60,000 grant budget for 2026/27 be allocated: £20,000 to Citizens Advice, £20,000 to Play to the Crowd and £20,000 to the Winchester City Community grant scheme, be approved;
5. That a £57,000 capital budget and authority to spend, funded from S106 sport contributions, to be allocated: £7,000 for electronic scoreboards for cricket at KGV, and up to £50,000 for cricket nets at North Walls, be approved;
6. That a one-off revenue budget of £15,000 for a speed indicators feasibility study, be approved; and

7. That the Corporate Head of Economy and Community be granted delegated authority to accept circa £11,000 of grant funding towards the installation of an artificial cricket wicket at the River Park Pavilion. Resurfacing works of circa £5,000 would be required in 8-10 years and funding would need to be sourced should the wicket continue to be used.

8. **INFORMAL GROUPS - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chairperson announced a proposal to combine two of the existing informal groups, namely Town Accounts Informal Group and the Community Governance Review (CGR) Informal Group, due to a significant overlap of their work, with the town forum budget process making forecasts for the period after a potential new Town Council would be established, and the CGR Informal Group being required to look at possible service and delivery costs.

It was emphasised that at this time, no formal decision had been taken for a town council to be formed and that these suggested changes were preparatory only, should any decision be made in the future. As a result, it was suggested that the new combined Informal Group be named 'Transition to Town Council Informal Group' which would provide a joint approach on finance and operational structure and service areas for the transitional period.

It was noted that the Informal Group would comprise of the existing membership from both Informal Groups. Councillor Batho would lead as Chair, with Councillor Learney retaining leadership for the town account financial activities within the new informal group going forward.

The Forum received individual updates from the Chairpersons of various Town Informal Groups, where available. Each summarised the work that had been carried out by the respective groups over the previous two-month period.

Councillor Batho – CGR Informal Group

Progress updates from the group were as follows:

Councillor Batho made the following announcement:

'On Monday 3 November last year, we launched our stage one consultation, asking residents and organisations whether they would support the creation of a parish council for the Winchester town area, and if so, which area it should cover.

During the 7-week consultation period we held four public engagement events, which saw over 100 people given the opportunity to meet the project team and ask their questions.

The consultation closed on Monday 22 December. We are grateful to everyone who responded. Initial data shows that we received over 1400 responses. The team at Public Perspectives, the independent research organisation who are supporting us with this consultation, are now reviewing and analysing what people have told us.

The consultation results will be published prior to Licensing & Regulatory Committee in March, and subsequent to the necessary approvals, the next stage of public consultation in this community governance review is expected to begin in May 2026.

For the most up to date information on this review, please visit www.winchester.gov.uk/CGR ‘

It was noted that the Informal Group were in discussion with similar sized towns who have been through the CGR process, who have, or are in the process of forming a new town council.

Councillor Tippet-Cooper – Culture Informal Group

Progress update from the group included:

- a) The Buttercross – restoration works were due to commence at the end of February/early March. Scaffolding would be erected around the Buttercross during the works, with full details available online for the public to access.
- b) Hyde Gate – Historic England and officers were liaising regarding the landscaping scheme report which was progressing. Progress on archaeological reports for the Hyde housing wall were ongoing and was a key stage before the rebuild could take place. A start date for works was expected shortly.

Councillor Batho (on behalf of Cllr Eve) - Climate and Open Space Informal Group

Progress updates from the group as follows:

The forum were reminded that, at its last meeting, they had supported and endorsed a MUGA at St Matthew’s Field. Councillor Batho had been asked to explore CIL funding. Councillor Batho reported that it had since been suggested that a split bid to district and town forum CIL funding would be advisable. An application has been submitted to district CIL for £110k (referred to as the north Winchester MUGA) and there was a suggestion that the ‘make space for girls’ initiative was considered so that a wider audience could be addressed. Advice has been discussed with youth options, and a second CIL application has been submitted to town forum for CIL funds for £40k (youth provision in north Winchester). Recommendations from the town accounts informal group in respect of CIL applications would come forward to the next meeting of the forum on 9 March 2026 for approval. In response, members of the forum indicated their support of a MUGA and the wider youth provision in north Winchester.

Councillor Aron - Grants and Community Empowerment Informal Group

Progress update from the group including:

- a) All charities who may or may not have applied for grants before were encouraged to submit their applications ahead of the 31 March 2026 deadline. Of the 19 grants made so far; only 4 were new charities. Where a charity was applying for a grant, ward members were encouraged to attend the application process to support their charities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Accounts Informal Group and the Community Governance Review Informal Group be combined and renamed 'Transition to Town Council Informal Group', comprising of the existing membership of both informal groups, with Councillor Batho to Chair and Councillor Learney to retain leadership for the town account, budgets and financial activities of the group for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year; and
2. That the updates received from the Town Informal Groups as set out above, be noted.

9. **WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26**

It was noted that the Chair would discuss work plan items for consideration at the next meeting of the forum on 9 March 2026 with the Strategic Director in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for 2025/26 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 8.10 pm

Chairperson

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REPORT TITLE: TOWN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATION FOR YOUTH PROVISION

9 MARCH 2026

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR KELSIE LEARNEY, ON BEHALF OF WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM CLIMATE AND OPEN SPACES INFORMAL GROUP

Contact Officer: Susan Robbins Tel No: 01962 848461 Email srobbins@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ST BARNABAS

PURPOSE

This report sets out the details of the Neighbourhood (Town) CIL application for proposals to improve the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at St Matthews Field, Weeke, St Barnabas ward.

It also includes proposals for a targeted engagement and consultation exercise with young people in the ward to provide them with the opportunity to help shape what future spaces and equipment should be provided alongside the MUGA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Town Forum is asked to:

1. Approve the allocation of £110,000 Town CIL funding to the North of Winchester Youth Provision project to improve the facilities at the St Matthews Field for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
2. Approve the allocation of £6,000 Town CIL revenue funding, and supplementary revenue budget, for youth engagement and consultation.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Investing CIL funding into this proposed improved infrastructure at St Matthews Field, Weeke brings benefits to local residents and specifically young people. This type of local investment directly supports our Council Plan vision to make a real difference to the lives of our residents, the strength of our business and the quality of our environment. These projects also contribute to the Council Plan priorities in the following ways.
- 1.2 Thriving Places
- 1.3 This youth provision ensures that the area benefits from sustained and improved facilities within 20 minutes of people's homes which helps reduce the need for travel.
- 1.4 Healthy Communities
- 1.5 The council wishes to give the district's residents the chance to improve their physical and mental health and encourage community involvement and well-being. One way to achieve this is to provide access to attractive and well-maintained public facilities, green and natural spaces with space to play and gather for all ages. The investment in this project provides improvement to an existing sporting facility that will encourage physical exercise or healthy outdoor pursuits. This will help to increase participation in physical activity for young people and of all abilities.
- 1.6 Listening and Learning
- 1.7 A key element of this project is targeted engagement and consultation with local young people as the users of the facility. This will help co-design and guide the specification for what is provided as additional equipment and spaces which are relevant to them and will encourage their use.

2 WINCHESTER VISION PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Spatial: The City Made by Walking
- 2.2 The Vision seeks to identify better ways of using the city's valuable space, including public spaces for the community. This project seeks to improve and enhance the sport and recreation facilities for young people in the area.
- 2.3 People Power: Establishing Mechanisms that Enable Communities
- 2.4 This key element of the Vision seeks to give people the chance to shape and influence the places where they live, work and play. In doing so this helps them feel public areas belong to them. Further, by using the spaces we already have in a smarter way it enables more people to have a greater chance for involvement in their local areas. This project, with its supporting

consultation and engagement to co-create the design, will lead to increased local ownership and participation from a wider group of people.

- 2.5 Auditing and Sharing Resources: Creating and Sharing Data is Empowerment
- 2.6 Capturing new emerging ideas for how we make change happen plays an important role in community building and empowerment. Our approaches to this need to change with the times and respond to changing attitudes. Adopting the Making Space for Girls approach to consultation and engagement will ensure we are using up to date and appropriate ways to engage with young people on their terms and in ways that best suit them.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Winchester Town Forum is in receipt of CIL funding collected from development in the town wards. It has the authority to allocate this funding to new or improved infrastructure that meets the CIL eligibility criteria. As of April 2025, the Neighbourhood (Town) CIL balance of unallocated funds was £224k
- 3.2 The allocation of £116k of CIL to the MUGA and engagement projects leaves £108k remaining to be allocated to future projects.
- 3.3 An application for CIL funding has been completed and assessed by officers and reviewed by the Informal CIL Panel. The projects meet the eligibility and quality requirements and is therefore recommended for funding. It is recommended that £110,000 of Town CIL is allocated to the MUGA scheme and that Cabinet approval for capital budget and expenditure is sought.
- 3.4 Further it is recommended that the Town Forum approve the allocation of £6,000 revenue from Town CIL for the cost of engagement/consultation services to understand the needs of specific groups of young people to increase inclusivity and participation from those groups. This will help design the specification for additional equipment and will underpin any future application for CIL funding.
- 3.5 The cost of the management and maintenance of the new assets created by this investment is estimated to be £1,500 per annum. This cost will be met from budget allocated by the Town Forum to the Landscape & Open Spaces programme budget.

4 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The works to carry out the proposed improvement to the youth provision at St Matthews Field will be competitively tendered with a contract awarded to the successful contractor. This will be in compliance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 It is proposed to contract with Youth Options to carry out the local engagement and consultation activity to input into the design and tender specification for the scheme.

- 4.3 Winchester Town Forum is in receipt of CIL funding collected from development in the town wards. It has the authority to allocate this funding to new or improved infrastructure that meets the CIL eligibility criteria.

5 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The delivery of the CIL funded project will be project managed by the landscape and open space team and within existing staff resources. Additional specialist expertise and capacity will be procured to carry out engagement and consultation with young people in the area to assist with the co-design of the proposed facility and equipment.

6 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The improved MUGA will have ongoing maintenance and inspection costs which are estimated to be £1,500 per annum. This cost will be met from budget allocated by the Town Forum to the Landscape & Open Space programme budget.

7 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 7.1 The St Barnabas ward team have conducted a survey of residents in the immediate vicinity of St Matthews Field, and the results show 70% of the respondents said yes to the MUGA. A survey was carried out for a previous CIL application for a MUGA in 2023, and a summary of the result from 269 participants is as follows.

98%	Either Strongly Agree or Agree that the community should have space for sports and physical activity.
96%	Either Strongly Agree or Agree that a MUGA would be a valuable addition to the community.
88%	Would use a MUGA a great deal or a lot if one were available in the community.
97%	of respondents lived in Winchester.
66%	of respondents lived in North Winchester communities.

- 7.2 The survey shows a clear desire for a MUGA in North Winchester with football and basketball the most popular sports to be played there. It demonstrates that a MUGA in this location would be well used by the community. The following stakeholders have given support for the project; Weeke Primary School, Youth Options / Streetreach and Littleton Football Club.
- 7.3 The funding for additional consultation specifically targeting local young people will ensure they can be involved with how spaces and equipment should be designed to meet different needs and in ways that best suits them.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 By providing facilities for young people near where they live and or go to school reduces the need to travel out of the area to access similar equipment and spaces to play and recreate.

9 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 9.1 As this proposal is an up-grade to existing provision an Equality Impact Assessment is not required. Should a scheme come forward for additional equipment and redesign of spaces, following the consultation and engagement exercise, then an assessment will be required at that time.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 None required

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<u>Financial Exposure</u> The schemes costs are more than the allocated CIL funding.	A fixed amount of CIL is allocated and is not paid until the scheme is complete or substantially complete. A competitive tender will require a fixed price to undertake the works.	
<u>Exposure to challenge</u> The scheme proposed for CIL funding does not provide the infrastructure required to support development or does not meet the CIL Regulations or Government Guidance.	The project has been assessed against approved criteria that reflect CIL Regulations and Government Guidance and scored using an approved scoring matrix.	
<u>Reputation</u> Failure to deliver the schemes using CIL income.	The deliverability of the scheme was scrutinised when assessing bid. The CIL programme is monitored to review the	

	progress of schemes allocated funding.	
<u>Achievement of outcome</u> The projects to be funded by CIL are not delivered.	The deliverability of the scheme was scrutinised when assessing the bid. The CIL programme is monitored to review the progress of schemes allocated funding.	Funding is reallocated to enable schemes with a higher degree of deliverability.
<u>Property</u> Ongoing maintenance other revenue costs cannot be met.	Ongoing costs are estimated and included in the funding approval	
<u>Community Support</u> The community do not support the scheme being allocated funding.	Funding is allocated for community facilities in areas which have been impacted by significant development so both new and existing residents will benefit. Ward member support has been secured and details of community consultation has been evidenced.	
<u>Timescales</u> The projects are not delivered within a reasonable timescale	The deliverability of the scheme was scrutinised when assessing bids received. Funding can be withdrawn from projects which do not show progress within a reasonable timescale. Council-led schemes are built into service plans to ensure sufficient capacity.	Once withdrawn, a funding offer can be reallocated to a more deliverable scheme.

<p><u>Project capacity</u> Lack of resources could hinder the use of CIL funds to support the funding of infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>The council team leading the project delivery has been consulted with a programme and timetable proposed</p>	
<p><u>Local Government Reorganisation</u> Delivery of CIL programme is cut short by structural change order.</p> <p>Change of funding priorities by new UA.</p>	<p>Legal opinion is being sought for clarity.</p> <p>Projects with high level of deliverability prior to LGR are prioritised through the assessment process.</p>	<p>Increased focus on short-term delivery of projects to ensure spend ahead of LGR.</p> <p>Increase awareness of funding amongst potential bidders to accelerate allocation of CIL funding.</p>

12 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 12.1 The proposed improvement to the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at St Matthews Field has been a long-held aspiration in recognition that this area lacks facilities for young people and this MUGA is well used. The Winchester District Open Spaces Assessment 2022 notes that the ward is deficient in open space provision and that there is little opportunity to add to this. So, the approach should be to improve what exists in terms of quality and accessibility.
- 12.2 The proposed improvement to the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) will replace a small area of hardstanding and single hoop. The final specification of the new provision will be determined through consultation.
- 12.3 This project will be part of a wider initiative to improve the informal play and recreation provision in north Winchester, covering the communities of Weeke and Fulflood, which currently lack these facilities. The proposed consultation and engagement with young people will provide them the opportunity to express what they think the priorities should be and help shape ideas for creating inclusive, safe, and welcoming spaces. This will include targeted engagement with girls to understand their experiences and expectations of public spaces. The approach will draw inspiration from the Make Space for Girls initiative, which advocates for parks and public spaces that genuinely meet the needs of girls and young women, as well as broader outreach to hard-to-reach young people who may face barriers to participation.
- 12.4 At the conclusion of the engagement exercise a scheme for future investment will be drafted and can come forward for consideration of Town CIL funding in the future.

13 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 13.1 The MUGA project was considered for funding for district CIL, but this was rejected following review at the Informal CIL Panel. It was deemed more appropriate that Neighbourhood (Town) CIL be allocated due the nature of the scheme and the benefits to residents of the St Barnabas ward.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

None

Other Background Documents:-

Winchester District Open Space Assessment 2022

APPENDICES:

None