

Winchester District Community Infrastructure Levy Informal Panel Meeting

Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 3pm

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

Minutes of the meeting

In attendance:

Councillor Jackie Porter (Chair) (JP) Councillor Malcolm Prince (MP) Richard Botham (Strategic Director Services)(RB) Chas Bradfield (Strategic Director Place)(CB) Simon Finch (Corporate Head of Regulatory)(SF) Michael Wood (Planning Solicitor)(MW) Corinne Phillips (CIL Implementation Officer)(CP)

Minutes

- 1) JP welcomed everyone to the meeting. JP expressed disappointment that there was no representative from HCC again this year. Approaches had been made but no firm commitment given from HCC officers. As there were a number of highway schemes on the existing programme and some new highway bids, an HCC representative would have been useful but the panel is able to proceed without.

2) Discussion of progress of 2019/20 WCC Bids

There are currently 2 WCC schemes on the 2019/20 programme, which were allocated funding by Cabinet in October 2019. These were considered by the panel for continued inclusion in the programme. These are Chilcomb Pavilion which was awarded £135,000, and pedestrian access improvements for Blackpath/South Downs Way, which was allocated £35,000. The panel agreed that the allocation for Chilcomb pavilion will remain in the programme. However the allocation of £35,000 for access improvements for Blackpath/South Downs will no longer be required, due to complications over rights of way and access. **It was agreed to recommend removal from the programme.**

A bid for £500k for public realm works linking Station Approach with the City Centre was also agreed by Cabinet in October 2019. Station Approach is not however progressing at present, and the allocation was provisional, requiring review after 12 months (from the Cabinet date) CB suggested that the funding be kept in the programme for schemes identified by the Movement Strategy but re-named to be more appropriate for what it will be allocated for. RB requested that there was clarification regarding what the funds would actually be used for.

3) 2020/21 Community Bids.

Before considering the bids, the panel noted that the value of this round of bids far exceeds the remaining funding available. Therefore even those bids which meet the criteria may not be able to be funded from the £1m originally approved for this scheme. The panel would give priority to the allocation of funding to those bids that were considered to give value for money and be of the most benefit. There had also been a lack of progress with a number of schemes allocated funding in the last round of bidding and included in the current programme. The deliverability of a scheme would therefore also be considered when making funding decisions, as this will ensure the funding goes to schemes that will progress within a reasonable timescale. The panel members were in agreement with this approach.

- 3.1) **Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Community Centre Renovation Project.**
JP pointed out that Cllr Laming had an interest in this scheme for the purposes of transparency. The scheme meets the criteria and is using funding from other sources to help fund the project. It will provide a valuable community facility for a wide area and will be able to be delivered when the funding is confirmed. The panel agreed to recommend the scheme for funding of £34,500.
- 3.2) **Bishops Sutton Footway Reinstatement.**
Despite knowing the area and recognizing that footway improvements would be of benefit, JP did not feel that the scheme met the criteria, as it was largely maintenance of existing footways. The panel agreed with this view. The bid was not recommended for funding
- 3.3) **Colden Common Community Centre Modernisation.**
The panel discussed the bid and noted that there were several bids for the Colden Common area (4 in total in this round) CIL Funding has previously been allocated to Colden Common bids. The bid was requesting 100% of the funding required. MP expressed a concern that funding was not being matched from any other source. The panel agreed not to recommend funding for the Community Centre as there was no funding leveraging in from elsewhere to help fund the scheme and it did not sufficiently meet the other criteria to justify an allocation.
- 3.4) **Colden Common Bowls Club Sprinkler System.**
The panel agreed that the bid did not meet the criteria, so could not be funded under this scheme, as it is for maintenance and is under the £10k threshold.
- 3.5) **Colden Common Outdoor Gym Equipment, St Vigor Way.**
The bid met a number of the criteria for the allocation of CIL (contributes to the delivery of infrastructure set out in the adopted Winchester District Local Plans and helps fulfil the aims of the Council Plan). Only half the required funding was being requested from the City Council so levers in other funds. The panel felt that an outdoor gym was of benefit to the wider community too. The panel agreed to recommend the bid for funding of £10k.
- 3.6) **Colden Common Recreation Ground Pavilion Refurbishment.**
The panel felt that this was an expensive bid, (£100k requested) but there was a lot of ongoing development in Colden Common. The scheme meets the criteria and will be of wider benefit (addresses a specific impact of new development beyond which

has been secured through a S106 or S278 agreement and contributes to the delivery of infrastructure requirements set out in the adopted Winchester District Local Plans and Council Strategy). The panel considered that as there were no funds forthcoming from any other source and the bid was for 100% of the required amount, the whole amount requested should not be allocated, in view of competing demands. The panel agreed to recommend a funding allocation of £90k.

3.7 Denmead Multi Use Games Area

The panel agreed that the bid met a number of the criteria, (addresses a specific impact of new development beyond which has been secured by a S106 agreement and contributes to the delivery of infrastructure set out in the Winchester District Local Plans and Council Plan) and that half of the required funding will be met from a S106 agreement. SF had knowledge of the scheme. The S106 funding would not be enough to cover the whole cost of the scheme and additional CIL funding would ensure a comprehensive facility with greater use/benefits was provided which was likely to be well used. Denmead is in need of improved sports facilities which would be available for a wide range of activities. The panel agreed to recommend an allocation of funding of £64,500.

3.8 St Swithun's Church Car Park Headbourne Worthy

This scheme made a bid for funding last year but was not successful. The bid this year has been refreshed meets the criteria and has been amended to allow wider use of the car park for use by patrons of the Church, and visitors to the nature reserve and the wider area (contributes to the delivery of infrastructure where it would not otherwise be delivered. It also levers in other funds). The panel agreed to recommend the allocation of £50k

3.9 New Alresford Outdoor Gym

The panel noted that New Alresford Town Council has made four separate bids for funding in this round. Although the gym equipment arguably met some of the criteria, the other bids were taken in to account, as there needed to be a fair spread of funding around the district. Taking in to account the other NATC bids, it was decided not to allocate funding to this scheme. Other bids locally had greater benefits.

3.10 West Street Pedestrian Improvements, New Alresford.

This scheme is on the R123 list, making it a strong candidate and meets other criteria but the panel had some concern that HCC were not allocating any funding towards it, as previously it had been intimated that HCC would be contributing some funding. JP expressed concern that HCC would also charge fees for design. The value of the bid is high, but as a Town Centre, scheme would be of a wider benefit to the whole community and visitors alike. The panel discussed how the scheme would be delivered (whether by HCC or possibly by WCC if resources permitted) The panel agreed to recommend the allocation of funding of £110k

3.11 Stratton Bates Recreation Ground New Alresford – Playground Equipment

This is also a high value bid, and there was little detail as to what would be provided, partly due to the lack of timescale to formulate a proposal in time to make the bid deadline this year. It was not thought to be readily deliverable in the present form. The panel did not agree to recommend the allocation of funding to this scheme.

- 3.12 **Stratton Bates Recreation Ground New Alresford – Extension of Car Park.**
The panel would not want to encourage visitors to drive to the recreation ground and considered that this scheme offers insufficient wider benefit, and primarily seeks to address an existing parking problem. The panel did not agree to the allocation of funding.
- 3.13 **St Mark’s Church Extension and Refurbishment, Oliver’s Battery.**
The panel considered that although this could potentially meet the criteria, it was a large bid, and did not give enough evidence of the wider need for the facility. More detail was required as to the wider benefit. The panel did not recommend the scheme for funding at this time.
- 3.14 **The Gratton Close Pavilion Extension. Wonston.**
The panel considered that the scheme met the criteria and would deliver value for money as it provided a wider benefit for many different users (contributes towards the aims of the Council Plan in supporting communities to extend the range of sports facilities across the district and also levers in other funds to enable the project to be realised). The panel recommended the allocation of funding of £30,000.
- 3.15 **Shawford Railway Station Community Hub**
The panel considered that the scheme met many of the criteria including a number of WCC priorities in terms of the Council’s environmental strategies (delivery of infrastructure schemes and requirements set out in the adopted Winchester District Local Plans, wider as well as local benefits and meets the objectives of the Council Plan with helping to increase the proportion of journeys taken by walking cycling and public transport). Some funding had also been secured from South West Trains. The panel agreed to allocate funding of £25k
- 3.16 **Tichbourne Park Cricket Club New Pavilion**
The panel considered that the funding required was a large bid just to meet the needs of one activity. It was not thought to represent good value for money as it did not provide for a wider use. The panel did not recommend the scheme for funding.
- 3.17 **Twyford Flood Mitigation Scheme.**
A bid for match funding for this scheme has also been made to the South Downs National Park Authority CIL fund. It is not known if this bid has been successful. Twyford made two successful bids for CIL funding last year, neither of which have made any progress. Much of the work is required to replace the existing infrastructure, so this was not considered a strong bid in terms of meeting the criteria. The panel did not agree to recommend funding for the scheme.
- 3.18 **11th Winchester Scouts HQ Refurbishment.**
The panel agreed that this was a large bid and was partly for maintenance. As the 11th Scouts HQ is within the Winchester Town Forum area the panel discussed whether WTF funding could be applied for to part fund the proposal. WTF has more flexibility regarding the use of CIL funding for maintenance. Funding was not agreed by the panel at this time.

Summary

The total amount recommended by the panel to be allocated to bids in this round came to £414,000. This was above the amount of CIL money remaining in community budget which currently is £365,000. The panel agreed that Cabinet would be requested to agree the additional amount of £49,000 required to fund the schemes agreed.

4) 2019/20 bids

The progress of the bids which were allocated funding last year were discussed by the panel. From the 12 bids awarded funding last year, only three have been completed. Three schemes were due to start in the spring, but have been delayed due to the Covid 19 situation. Others have made little or no progress.

Schemes completed; Colden Common footpath improvements, Littleton and Harestock Parkour facility and Wickham Recreation Ground play equipment.

Schemes delayed due to the pandemic; Colden Common Church facilities upgrade, Durley School crossing point and Havant cycle link.

There are two highway schemes which have not made any progress and HCC have not provided any feedback as to when these schemes may be progressed. These include Otterbourne pedestrian crossing and Upham traffic calming scheme. Shedfield Recreation Ground pavilion has acquired planning permission but has not progressed any further. The remaining three schemes, which include Twyford car park extension, Twyford cycle route and Abbots Barton and Hyde Scout facility have made no progress to date. The funding allocated to these three schemes amounts to £315,000. SF pointed out that there is currently not enough funding for a third round of bids next year so the £315,000 for schemes which have no realistic chance of being delivered could be used for schemes that could be delivered. A recommendation will need to be made to Cabinet in September. It is hoped that a further Informal Panel meeting can take place to discuss this further

5) 2020/21 WCC Bids

5.1 Wayfinder Signing in Winchester

The scheme for new and replacement fingerpost and Wayfinder pedestrian signing across the City is supported by MP as it will encourage alternative uses of transport to the new Leisure Centre, and between other destinations around the city. The proposal is in the R123 list and has links to the Movement Strategy. It also meets the aims of the Council Plan by encouraging a higher proportion of local journeys to be taken on foot or by cycling. The panel agreed to allocate £50,000 to the scheme as funding is unlikely to be available from any other source.

5.2 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Improvements, Winchester City.

The bid is for walking and cycling improvements (including footway widening, contraflow cycle lanes, pedestrian crossing points, raised side road entries) to enhance the routes for vulnerable road users from the railway station towards the city, and around the main routes in the city. This links in to the Movement Strategy for Winchester. The exact amount required for schemes is unknown, as there have been no formal costings but it is likely to be in the region of £500,000. The proposal meets the criteria (contributes to the delivery of infrastructure schemes identified in the Winchester District Local Plans, the City of Winchester Movement Strategy and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Also supports the Council Plan) JP expressed concern that there appears to be no indication that any funding is forthcoming from HCC. CB suggested that there needs to be further discussions with other WCC officers (Veryon Lyons and Andy Hickman) to link into the city centre developments. There was a discussion about the delivery of any identified schemes, as HCC have not been delivering on other schemes which have been allocated funding. It was questioned whether WCC's engineering section could be involved. RB stated that this would depend on resourcing as it is a small team. The panel considered that further discussion was required so did not therefore agree to the allocation of funds at this time. There would have to be a further panel meeting, when further information was known.

The meeting closed at 5pm.