

REPORT TITLE: TOWN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATION FOR YOUTH PROVISION

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

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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 Fullood, 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