

REPORT TITLE: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

12 MARCH 2026

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Jackie Porter, Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan

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WARD(S): ALRESFORD & ITCHEN VALLEY, BADGER FARM & OLIVERS BATTERY, BISHOPS WALTHAM, CENTRAL MEON VALLEY, COLDEN COMMON & TWYFORD, SOUTHWICK & WICKHAM, ST BARNABAS, ST BARTHOLOMEW, ST LUKE, ST MICHAEL, THE WORTHYS, UPPER MEON VALLEY, WHITELEY & SHEDFIELD

PURPOSE

This paper provides an update on the CIL funding programme including the amount of CIL collected and the current value of the CIL funds available to support infrastructure delivery. It considers the levels of demand for different types of projects and recommends changes to the approved arrangements for ring-fencing of funds that will ensure funds remain available to support infrastructure schemes and maximise effective delivery over the coming years.

It presents CIL bids for community projects that were received between 1st September and 30th November 2025 as well as bids for schemes directly delivered by the council and county council which can be applied for throughout the year.

Subject to this funding being approved by Cabinet, the projects detailed in this report will become part of the rolling programme of schemes, wholly or partly funded by CIL.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That the Strategic Procedural Overview for CIL allocation and spending which apportions percentages of the CIL retained by the city council be revised to reflect 40% for community / health / active travel / transport schemes and 60% for strategic district schemes, as detailed in appendix 1.
- 2) Note the ongoing commitment to the joint Movement Strategy with Hampshire County Council, supporting the coordinated delivery of transport and active travel infrastructure that helps address the impacts of development on local communities.
- 3) Approve a funding allocation of £1,088,638 from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts and approve the expenditure under Financial Procedure rule 7.4, using the existing CIL funded community grants budget, for the following community-led projects:
  - a) Chesil Theatre, Winchester - extension and refurbishment: £200,000
  - b) Wickham pavilion: £150,000
  - c) Theatre Royal, Winchester - boilers and lighting: £78,000
  - d) Colden Common - skatepark and MUGA: £30,000
  - e) Kings Worthy – allotments: £35,525
  - f) The Gurkha Museum - reconfiguration, ramps and toilets: £64,707
  - g) Winchester City Museum - exhibition upgrade and remodelling: £200,000
  - h) Trinity, Winchester - new heating system: £32,000
  - i) Christ Church, Winchester - lifts and toilets: £92,300
  - j) Colden Common Bowls Club - ramp and safety barrier: £10,000
  - k) The Carroll Centre, Winchester - toilets and kitchen: £102,251
  - l) Knowle MUGA: £30,000
  - m) Durley Village Hall - kitchen: £22,905
  - n) Boarhunt pavilion: £40,950
- 4) Note that four applications were refused.
- 5) Note that one application was referred to Winchester Town Forum for consideration to be funded from Winchester Town CIL.
- 6) Note that £110,000 previously allocated to three community schemes that are no longer going ahead - Otterbourne pedestrian crossing, Twyford cycle route and Knowle pump track - can be released back to the fund for future allocation.

- 7) Approve a capital budget and funding allocation of £359,695 in 2026/27 from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts ring-fenced to support transport and active travel projects and approve the expenditure under Financial Procedure rule 7.4, for the following Hampshire County Council projects:
  - a) Swanmore to Bishops Waltham - footpath/cycleway: £300,000
  - b) Itchen Valley - path improvements: £59,695
- 8) Approve a CIL allocation of £331,000 to the following council-led projects, subject to approval of a full business case:
  - a) Winchester Cathedral - solar PV installation: £107,000
  - b) Winchester Science Centre - solar PV installation: £224,000
- 9) Approve an increase of £30,000, funded by CIL, to the existing capital budget of £60,000 for solar PV at Meadowside Leisure Centre and approve its expenditure, bringing the total budget approved for expenditure to £90,000.
- 10) Approve a capital budget of £110,000 in 2026/27 (subject to approval of by Winchester Town Forum report WFT343) allocated from Neighbourhood (Town) CIL income receipts and approve the expenditure under Financial Procedure rule 7.4 for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) improvement at St Matthews Field, Weeke.
- 11) Approve a CIL allocation of £4.5m to the Central Winchester Regeneration scheme, previously earmarked for this purpose in CAB3484.
- 12) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director responsible for CIL to approve funding allocations from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts to community, health, active travel and transport fund projects.
- 13) Delegate authority to the S151 officer to approve capital budget and expenditure up to £500k for community, health, active travel and transport fund projects.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Community groups and organisations seeking to provide new or improved infrastructure in their local communities for the benefit of district residents can bid each year for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to help deliver their projects. The ability to facilitate this local investment directly supports our vision, as stated in the Council Plan, that we will make a real difference to the lives of our residents, the strength of our business and the quality of our environment. The infrastructure projects that are recommended for funding in this round contribute to the Council Plan priorities in the following ways.
- 1.2 Greener Faster
- 1.3 Addressing the climate and nature emergencies is the main priority for the council. CIL can fund projects that result in energy saving and carbon reduction, such as such as building insulation, energy efficient lighting or local carbon heating, to help meet the aim to be a carbon neutral district by 2030. Schemes may help mitigate or reduce the negative effects of climate change for example, property adaptations or flood defences etc.
- 1.4 Thriving Places
- 1.5 Ensuring that the district has sustained and improved facilities in local centres that reduce the need for travel within 20 minutes of people's homes, enables places to thrive. CIL investment can be for projects that improve educational facilities, cultural and heritage assets.
- 1.6 Healthy Communities
- 1.7 The council wishes to give the district's residents the opportunities to improve their physical and mental health and encourage community involvement, cohesion and well-being throughout the district. This could be through provision of attractive and well-maintained public facilities, green and natural spaces with space to play and gather for all ages; new or improved leisure, recreation and community facilities and informal public spaces. Projects that can be funded by CIL need to demonstrate they provide new or improved facilities that improve health, promote community cohesion, encourage active travel and make facilities more inclusive and accessible for all.
- 1.8 Good Homes for All
- 1.9 N/A
- 1.10 Efficient and Effective
- 1.11 The proposed procedural improvements to the CIL funding process will make the process more effective, efficient and as straight forward as possible for applicants. By utilising alternative decision routes, we can significantly reduce

the time taken to reach a decision for external grants to community organisations and introduce a second bidding window to increase the frequency of awards.

- 1.12 Listening and Learning
- 1.13 Applicants for CIL funding must demonstrate that the proposed scheme has received public support via local consultation and that local views have been taken into account in the project design. This includes engagement with ward members.
- 1.14 The use of CIL to support community projects has helped embed effective partnerships, by working with Parish Councils and other community groups which represent residents, to bring forward much needed community projects and local facilities.

## 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 At the end of March 2025, the council had collected nearly £26m of CIL receipts since adopting CIL in April 2014. Deductions have been made for regulatory allocations of up to 5% of the CIL collected to administer the fund and 15% of CIL collected to the parish council for the area (rising to 25% where a parish council has an adopted neighbourhood plan). A sum of just over £1.5m was paid to HCC in 2018 to deliver transport infrastructure works, meaning the total retained by the council for allocation since the scheme began was £19,097,827.
- 2.2 Of the CIL retained by the council to the end of March 2025, £15,599,746 had been allocated to support infrastructure schemes in the town and wider district, leaving £3,498,081 remaining to be allocated.

Total CIL Collected (April 2014 to 31st March 2025)		£25,936,868
Less:	Admin (up to 5%)	£1,296,843
	Parish council share (15/25%)	£3,983,250
	HCC allocation prior to SEP 2018	£1,558,948
		<u>£6,839,041</u>
CIL retained by WCC		<u>£19,097,827</u>
Of which:	CIL previously allocated to projects	£15,599,746
	CIL remaining to be allocated	£3,498,081
		<u>£19,097,827</u>

- 2.3 The total value of CIL previously allocated to projects includes £4.5m earmarked in March 2025 for the Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) scheme. A detailed application has since been received, which accords with the original outline proposal and provides further information to demonstrate CIL eligibility. Therefore, it is recommended that the earmarked £4.5m now is allocated in the CIL programme for this scheme. The creation of a budget

and subsequent release of funding will be subject to approval of a full business case for the scheme, which is expected later this year.

- 2.4 Allocations approved by Cabinet during 2025 have committed a net additional £321,393, leaving £3,176,688 remaining for allocation at this time.
- 2.5 The sum remaining for allocation is currently split into three funds, but the level of demand for each of the funds is inconsistent with the 60:30:10 split. Therefore, this report recommends changes to the division of the funds to better reflect the demand. Financial details of each fund are summarised in appendix 2.
- 2.6 The recommendations contained in this report would allocate the following:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Grant allocations</b>	<b>Remaining Fund</b>
Health / community / transport / active travel	£1,088,638 in community grants £359,695 to HCC for active travel projects	£1,036,526
District / strategic projects	£361,000 towards solar PV projects £4.5m to Central Winchester Regeneration (already accounted for)	£131,740

- 2.7 The following capital budgets were approved in the capital programme (CAB3539 in February 2026) and are sufficient for the allocations recommended in this report:
- a) £1.3M for CIL funded community projects for the community grant allocations with estimated profiled expenditure of £650,000 in 26/27 and £650,000 in 27/28.
  - b) £500,000 for Energy Management Projects in 26/27 for projects such as the proposed solar PV on Winchester Cathedral outbuildings and Winchester Science Centre.
- 2.8 The following additional capital budgets are required for the allocations recommended in this report:
- a) £360,000 in 2026/27 for CIL funded Hampshire County Council active travel projects.
  - b) An increase of £30,000 to the existing capital budget of £60,000 for solar PV at Meadowside Leisure Centre, bringing the total budget approved for expenditure to £90,000.
- 2.9 Three community projects with previous funding allocations are no longer going ahead, so have been removed from the CIL programme and £110,000 released for future allocation:

- a) £50,000 Otterbourne pedestrian crossing (2019) has been completed using CIL already allocated to HCC in 2018.
  - b) £50,000 Twyford cycle route (2019) now forms part of a much larger HCC cycle scheme.
  - c) £10,000 Knowle pump track (2022) is no longer progressing.
- 2.10 CIL receipts have continued to be collected during 2025/26 but are not reconciled until the end of the financial year. These are reflected in appendix 2 to give a truer representation of the funds that will remain for allocation in 2026 and beyond. The remaining funds (net of these approvals) currently total a combined £2,156,678.
- 2.11 As of April 2025, the Neighbourhood (Town) CIL balance of unallocated funds was £224,000. The allocation of CIL of £110,000 to the MUGA scheme leaves £114,000 remaining to be allocated to future projects.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 allow charging authorities to collect funding from qualifying developments in their area, which must be used to support or mitigate the effects of development. It can be used flexibly to fund any infrastructure as defined within the regulations.
- 3.2 To ensure transparency and accountability, a mechanism to identify and prioritise schemes on which spending is required to support development in the district was agreed by Cabinet in June 2016 (CAB2807). This spending protocol was updated in September 2018 (CAB3071) and again in March 2021 (CAB3292) to reflect the updated CIL Regulations and Government guidance. A further review of CIL was conducted in 2023, which resulted in a recommendation to ring-fence the district CIL into three distinct funds reflecting the priorities of the Council Plan.
- 3.3 Approved council-led schemes will be procured in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023 (PA23) with guidance from Procurement, Finance and Legal as required.
- 3.4 The CIL funding which is allocated to other entities such as with community schemes constitutes a capital grant and as such is not subject to the council's Contract Procedure Rules or PA23.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The collection and implementation of CIL receipts is funded using the 5% of CIL that can be used to administer the scheme under the CIL Regulations. Two posts are currently funded through the CIL administration provision, with the CIL Officer identifying CIL liability and collection of funds and the CIL Implementation Officer monitoring the CIL project programme and the bidding

process, liaising with Members regarding funding priorities and updating the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement. Other officers who spend significant time working on CIL can recharge the Levy for their time.

- 4.2 The 5% can only be applied for one financial year, with any surplus retained to fund infrastructure. However, if CIL receipts are low in any particular year and 5% is insufficient to cover the administration costs, this shortfall has to be met from the General Fund.

## 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The improved MUGA project (Recommendation 10) will have ongoing maintenance and inspection costs which are estimated to be £1500 per annum. This cost will be met from budget allocated by the Town Forum to the Landscape and Open Space programme budget.
- 5.2 Recommendations 9 and 11 relate to council-owned properties and assets, but implications of those projects will be addressed through the full business case before any expenditure is approved.

## 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The bidding window was advertised on the council website, in Parish Connect and on social media in advance of opening. Additionally in 2025 there were grant workshops for external organisations to raise awareness of the different grants that were available to, including CIL. The CIL application scheme has been over-subscribed for a number of years now, with the value of applications regularly exceeding the amount of CIL available to fund community projects.
- 6.2 Bidders are required to seek the support of elected members for a ward or parish area and to include confirmation of this in their bid.
- 6.3 Bidders are also required to confirm whether there has been wider public consultation for a particular project, which helps to gauge the support and wider benefits of the project when assessing the bids for funding.
- 6.4 All 24 bids were considered by the CIL Informal Panel in a meeting held on the 23 January 2026, attended by three Cabinet Members and one director. The panel discussed the officer assessment of each application, the sums recommended and the impact of the recommendations on overall CIL fund.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The CIL criteria associated with the bidding process align with the priorities of the Council Plan, particularly in relation to carbon reduction and tackling climate change. Projects which can demonstrate a beneficial impact on the reduction of carbon emissions, a mitigating impact on the effects of climate change or improved energy efficiency are favourably considered within the process of CIL allocation.

## 8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 The councils' duty under the Human Rights Act 1988 and the Equalities Act 2010 is considered and an equality impact assessment has been completed. There is no identified adverse impact through the allocation of CIL funding to anyone with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010, or with regards to human rights (See appendix 3).
- 8.2 Many projects allocated CIL funding seek to improve accessibility to facilities and improved infrastructure for all. These will have a positive impact upon the council's duties under the Human Rights Act 1088 and the Equalities Act 2010. Future funding priorities will continue to provide improved facilities at both a local and district wide level to enable more inclusive communities and better health and well-being for all.

## 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The information supplied by the applicants can sometimes contain personal information, but the application forms are not publicly available and all information is deleted/destroyed in accordance with the council's document retention schedule.

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 Current risks are assessed as follows.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<u>Financial Exposure</u> Schemes allocated CIL funding are not complete or exceed the amount requested.	A fixed amount of CIL is allocated and is not paid until the scheme is complete or substantially complete.  CIL Grant Agreements will include the right of the council to withdraw a funding offer for projects that fail to be implemented in the time agreed for completion of delivery.	Assessment criteria incentivise applicants to lever in funding from other sources.
<u>Exposure to challenge</u> The schemes prioritised for CIL funding do not provide the infrastructure	Projects are assessed against approved criteria that reflect CIL	

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
required to support development or do not meet the CIL Regulations or Government Guidance.	<p>Regulations and Government Guidance and scored using a scoring matrix.</p> <p>Larger council-led schemes will require a business case to be agreed by Cabinet to proceed with a bid for CIL funding.</p> <p>Legal advice is sought if required.</p>	
<p><u>Reputation</u> Failure to deliver appropriate schemes using CIL income.</p>	<p>The deliverability of schemes is scrutinised when assessing bids received.</p> <p>The CIL programme is monitored to review the progress of schemes allocated funding.</p>	
<p><u>Achievement of outcome</u> Projects to be funded by CIL are not delivered.</p>	<p>The deliverability of schemes is scrutinised when assessing bids received.</p> <p>The CIL programme is monitored to review the progress of schemes allocated funding.</p> <p>Funding agreements include a clause for withdrawal of the offer if schemes do not progress/</p>	<p>Funding is reallocated to enable schemes with a higher degree of deliverability.</p>
<p><u>Property</u> There may be insufficient funding available to</p>	<p>Fund are ring-fenced to ensure adequate funding</p>	<p>Investment in community-owned assets reduces</p>

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
ensure that council-owned assets have the capacity to cope with the increased pressure from new developments.	is retained for council-led schemes.	pressure and demand on council-owned assets.
<u>Community Support</u> The community do not support the schemes which are 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.  Bidders need to confirm that ward member support has been sought and detail any consultation with the local community that evidences local demand.	
<u>Timescales</u> Projects are not delivered within a reasonable timescale	The deliverability of schemes is 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.
<u>Project capacity</u> Lack of resources could hinder the use of CIL funds to support the funding of infrastructure projects.	CIL Regulations allow up to 5% of the CIL collected to be used to support the administration of CIL.	

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p data-bbox="193 322 595 517"><u>Local Government Reorganisation</u> Delivery of CIL programme is cut short by structural change order.</p> <p data-bbox="193 595 595 815">Change of funding priorities by new UA.</p>	<p data-bbox="595 400 997 479">Legal opinion is being sought for clarity.</p> <p data-bbox="595 629 997 815">Projects with high level of deliverability prior to LGR are prioritised through the assessment process.</p>	<p data-bbox="997 400 1396 551">Increased focus on short-term delivery of projects to ensure spend ahead of LGR.</p> <p data-bbox="997 595 1396 745">Increase awareness of funding amongst potential bidders to accelerate allocation of CIL funding.</p>

## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 The CIL is a mechanism available for local authorities to raise money from new qualifying development to fund new or improved infrastructure needed to support new development or mitigate the effect of development on existing communities. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including flood defences, transport schemes, health and social care facilities, education facilities, community, cultural and sporting facilities and parks and open spaces.
- 11.2 Local authorities must spend CIL on infrastructure needed to support development in their area and it is intended to provide new or substantially improved facilities, rather than to remedy pre-existing deficiencies, unless made more severe by development. For this reason, it is difficult to support infrastructure improvements in areas where there has been little or no development, unless directly impacted by significant development in a neighbouring area.
- 11.3 On 18 July 2023, Cabinet approved a spending protocol for CIL that established ring-fencing of available CIL as follows:
- a) 10% to support community and health infrastructure projects
  - b) 30% to support Hampshire County Council led infrastructure projects
  - c) 60% to support WCC led infrastructure projects
- 11.4 Since this spending protocol was introduced, the demand for funding of community and health infrastructure projects has exceeded the predicted level. Conversely, the demand for funding of Hampshire County Council led infrastructure projects has been below the predicted level. This has resulted in the ring-fenced funds for Hampshire County Council led infrastructure

projects growing to a significant size while the fund for community and health infrastructure projects has reduced to a level where it is no longer sufficient to meet the demand that exists.

- 11.5 The number of community bids has been increasing, as has the size of bids and, in this round of applications, a number of bids were for sums in excess of £100,000. The £1,375,235 requested far exceeds the amount ring-fenced for community projects, which currently stands at £556,092, and limits the ability to fund all projects that are assessed as suitable.
- 11.6 The fund for Hampshire County Council led infrastructure projects has seen limited demand since the ring-fenced funds were agreed in July 2023. The county council has had projects at various stages of development, but has been faced with challenges such as rising costs, failure of other funding bids, and technical design issues. These challenges have thwarted many schemes at an early stage, and those that have been allocated funding have subsequently stalled. A small number of community projects for active travel infrastructure have been allocated from this fund but there is currently £1,936,767 in the ring-fenced fund.
- 11.7 We are keen to continue supporting high quality projects that can deliver necessary infrastructure across the district, so recommend that the following ring-fenced funds are amalgamated:
- 10% to support community and health infrastructure projects
  - 30% to support Hampshire County Council led infrastructure projects

The new fund would receive 40% of available CIL to support community / health / active travel / transport, including those delivered in collaboration with Hampshire County Council. Delivery of active travel and transport schemes remains a high priority, particularly where they align with the joint Winchester and county council Movement Strategy, and will continue to be supported via this newly amalgamated fund. Council officers have been working with colleagues at Hampshire County Council to identify the barriers to bringing forward of schemes with the aim of accelerating progress during 2026.

- 11.8 The combined value of the new fund would be £2,494,859, prior to the allocations recommended in this report. This would create sufficient headroom to fund more projects, with the flexibility to direct the funding where it can make the most difference. Appendix 1 shows how the procedure for CIL allocation and spending would look if this proposal is adopted.

## 12 FUNDING BIDS

### Community and health fund: Community bids for approval

- 12.1 This year's community CIL bids were all submitted via the council's online grant system. Projects which deliver benefits for the following corporate priorities were considered favourably – climate adaptation and mitigation;

active travel; healthy, active lives; and community cohesion. Underpinning the assessments of all projects is the link to recent development. A copy of the fund criteria can be found at appendix 4.

- 12.2 There were 18 community bids received for a variety of infrastructure projects across the district and one bid received from a project within East Hampshire district. One further bid (making 20 in total) was received which was not a bid for infrastructure costs, so was rejected prior to the assessment process.
- 12.3 The total CIL requested for community projects was £1,375,235, which represented a significant increase on the value of bids in previous years. A summary of the bids received, the scoring assessment and the recommended grant awards are found in appendix 2 to this report.
- 12.4 Following consultation with the CIL Informal Panel, the following 14 CIL allocations are recommended from the combined Community and Active Travel fund, at a total cost of £1,088,638.

Table 1 – Community projects recommended for funding

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project and description</b>	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Anticipated completion</b>
Winchester Dramatic Society	Extension and refurbishment of Chesil Theatre, including new changing facilities for performers, accessible toilets, lift access to the upper floors, enhanced foyer, bar and café.	£200,000	2027/28
Wickham and Knowle Parish Council	A new pavilion at Wickham Recreation Ground to replace the current 70 year old pavilion (match funded with s106 funding).	£150,000	2026/27
Play to the Crowd	Energy efficiency measures at Theatre Royal, Winchester - New heating system and boilers as well as LED lighting improvements to the auditorium and stage.	£78,000	2026/27
Colden Common Parish Council	A complete renewal of the skatepark to accommodate younger children and a new MUGA.	£30,000	2026/27
Kings Worthy	Additional allotments at Lovedon Lane, including the	£35,525	2026/27

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project and description</b>	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Anticipated completion</b>
Parish Council	provision of a community garden.		
The Gurkha Museum Trust	Remodelling and refurbishment of the Grade 2 listed building to provide new lifts, ramps and accessible toilets with a redesign of the museum galleries.	£64,707	2026/27
Hampshire Cultural Trust	Remodelling and refurbishment of the middle floor of the City Museum in Winchester to incorporate the 878AD interactive exhibition.	£200,000	2026/27
Trinity Winchester	A new heating system for the day centre which would be more sustainable and reduce carbon emissions.	£32,000	2026/27
Christ Church Winchester	A new lift to the upper floors to improve accessibility and upgrade of the toilets to make them disabled compliant.	£92,300	2026/27
Colden Common Bowls Club	Removal of a steep grass bank and replacement with a ramp and safety barrier to increase safety and improve accessibility.	£10,000	2026/27
The Carroll Centre, Winchester	Significant upgrade of the kitchen and the toilets.	£102,251	Unknown
Wickham and Knowle Parish Council	Improved surfacing and re-lining of the MUGA in Knowle village.	£30,000	2026/27
Durley Parish Council	Improved kitchen facilities at Durley Village Hall to make better use of the hall for hirers including an older persons' lunch club.	£22,905	2026/27

Applicant	Project and description	Recommended allocation	Anticipated completion
Boarhunt Parish Council	Renovate the outdated and underused pavilion to create a community hub.	£40,950	2026/27

- 12.5 Four applications for funding are recommended for refusal on the grounds of not sufficiently satisfying the assessment criteria.
- 12.6 One application is considered to be more suitable for Winchester Town CIL funding, so has been directed to Winchester Town Forum for consideration.

Transport and active travel fund: HCC bids for approval

- 12.7 There were two bids received from Hampshire County Council Countryside Services, for projects that deliver active travel infrastructure and which link to the District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Both projects would encourage sustainable travel routes as well as providing a network for recreational opportunities.
- 12.8 Following consultation with the CIL Informal Panel, the following two CIL allocations are recommended from the combined Community and Active Travel fund, at a total cost of £359,695.

Table 2 – Active Travel projects recommended for funding

Applicant	Project and description	Recommended allocation	Anticipated completion
Hampshire County Council Countryside Service	<p>The upgrade of a mile-long muddy off-road footpath between Swanmore and Bishops Waltham to provide a wider, hard surface to be used by walkers and cyclists in all weathers.</p> <p>This project has been in development for many years, involving detailed discussions with landowners, and would provide a valuable route for students accessing Swanmore Technology College from Bishops Waltham.</p>	£300,000	2026/27

Hampshire County Council Countryside Service	The upgrade of two riverside footpaths to link Kings Worthy, Headbourne Worthy and Winchester to routes into the South Downs National Park and long-distance walking routes along the Itchen Valley.	£59,695	2027/28
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### 13 WCC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

- 13.1 Three council-led projects totalling £360,000 have been assessed and endorsed by the PAC Board and are recommended for funding via CIL to enable delivery this year.

Project	Description	Recommended allocation	Anticipated completion
Winchester Cathedral - Solar PV installation	This project will provide solar PV panels on four publicly accessible buildings that form part of the Winchester Cathedral estate – not the cathedral building itself. 132 solar panels will avoid around 9.6 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	£107,000	2026/27
Winchester Science Centre – Solar PV installation	This project will provide solar PV panels on the landmark Winchester Science Centre building at Morn Hill. 332 panels will avoid 19.7 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	£224,000	2026/27
Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley – Solar PV installation	This project will provide solar panels for the council's Meadowside Leisure Centre in Whiteley.  The 25kWp solar array of 62 panels will avoid around 4.6 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions annually. The array is forecast to generate in the region of	£30,000	2026/27

Project	Description	Recommended allocation	Anticipated completion
	26,000kWh of electricity annually, reducing the grid electricity use of the leisure centre. The lower grid electricity usage will give an annual energy cost saving in the region of £5,200.		

- 13.2 Outline business cases for the cathedral and science centre projects have been assessed and endorsed by the PAC Board and were included in the capital strategy report to Cabinet in February for inclusion within the capital programme for 2026/27 as part of the energy management projects budget. The release of CIL funding for these schemes would be subject to subsequent approval of the full business case.
- 13.3 The Meadowside Leisure Centre scheme was approved for expenditure via an officer decision record some time ago and was allocated £60,000 of CIL funding in October 2023. However, the tender process has resulted in higher-than-expected costs, and it has not been possible to reduce them without compromising the scheme, so a further £30,000 is required to enable to project to proceed.
- 13.4 All three projects were considered by the CIL Informal Panel on 23 January 2026, which supported the proposal to allocate CIL funding from the District Strategic Projects Fund, as an alternative to other funding sources, such as borrowing, to fund the schemes.
- 14 NEIGHBOURHOOD (TOWN) CIL
- 14.1 An application for Neighbourhood (Town) CIL funding has been completed and assessed by officers and Informal CIL Panel with the project meeting the eligibility and quality requirements. Winchester Town Forum will consider the allocation of £110,000 capital and £6,000 revenue of Town CIL at its the 9 March 2026 meeting (WTF343). Approval of capital budget and expenditure will enable the project to proceed in 2026/27.

Project	Description	Allocation subject to TF approval	Anticipated completion
Improved Multi-use Games Area at St Matthews Field	<p>The proposed Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) improvement will replace a small area of hardstanding and single hoop. (capital)</p> <p>The final specification of the new provision will be determined through a targeted engagement and consultation exercise with young people and those facing barriers to participation (revenue)</p>	<p>£110,000 capital</p> <p>Plus</p> <p>£6,000 revenue</p>	2026/27

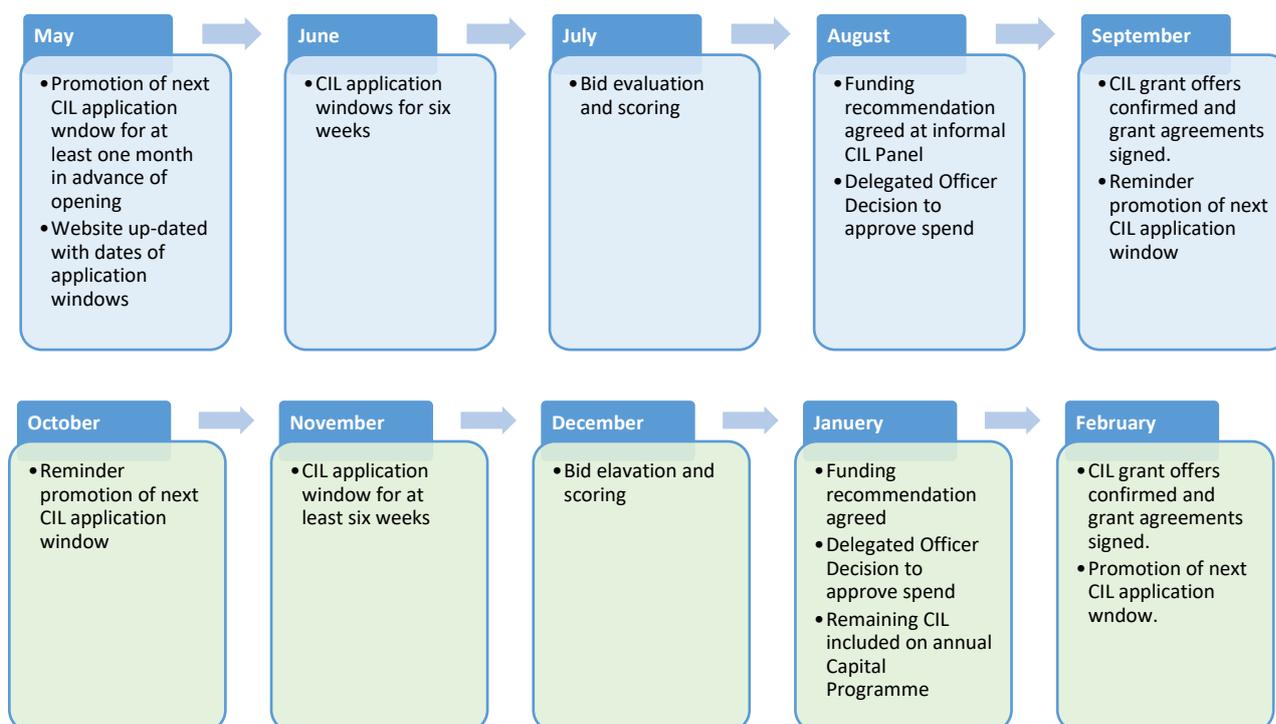
## 15 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CIL PROCESS

- 15.1 CIL funding is a powerful way to reinvest in the places we live, work, and enjoy. It allows us to deliver projects that enhance quality of life, celebrate local identity, and ensure that new development is matched by the right infrastructure. By using CIL creatively and responsibly, we can deliver projects that not only meet today's needs but also inspire future generations — building stronger, more connected, and more resilient communities.
- 15.2 We are continually seeking ways to improve how we manage and allocate CIL funds to projects, so that it is effective, efficient and as straight forward as possible for applicants.
- 15.3 Our current approach for applications, evaluation and approvals can take up to seven months from the time the window for bids opens to the decision to award the funds. This is a lengthy process for applicants and results in there being only one application window each year, between September and November. By streamlining the process and using alternative decision routes available to us, we have identified that this could be significantly reduced for external grants to community organisations.
- 15.4 It is recommended that, from 2026 onwards, we adapt a revised application, evaluation and approval process for the Community, Health, Active Travel and Transport fund, as follows:
- a) The full balance of retained CIL apportioned to the Community, Health, Active Travel and Transport fund is included in the annual Capital Investment Programme agreed by Council in February.

- b) Applicants to the Community, Health, Active Travel and Transport fund can apply twice a year (where funding allows).
- c) The approval route is as follows:

<b>Recommended for CIL allocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive applications evaluated and scored by officers</li> <li>• Funding recommendation agreed in consultation with Informal CIL Panel</li> </ul>
<b>Allocation of CIL</b>	Strategic Director responsible for CIL
<b>Approval of new capital budgets for CIL (FPR 8.2)</b>	<£500k = S151 Officer >£500k = Cabinet
<b>Approval of capital expenditure (FPR 7.4) *</b>	<£500k = S151 Officer >£500k = Cabinet

15.5 The introduction of the delegated officer decision to approve expenditure for funding awards of up to £500k significantly reduces the length of the award process. This provides maximum flexibility and speed of decision making, whilst still identifying impactful projects that meet the CIL regulations for eligible expenditure with the necessary governance and transparency. This further enables two windows to be opened for competitive community, health and active travel bids. Below is the proposed timeline for 2026 onwards.



- 15.6 This accelerated programme will require promotion of the application windows well in advance and for at the least one month before the window opens. The application window will be for six weeks and information on the key dates and support available will be published on the council website. This will help prospective applicants to plan and prepare their projects for submission for funding.
- 15.7 District CIL (allocated to council projects) will continue with the existing governance under the Financial Procedure Rules (FPR) for the allocation, approval and expenditure of budgets. This reflects the wider financial and non-financial implications arising from these projects.

<b>Recommended for CIL allocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive applications evaluated and scored by officers</li> <li>Funding recommendation agreed in consultation with informal CIL Panel</li> </ul>
<b>Allocation of CIL</b>	Cabinet
<b>Approval of capital budgets (FPR 8.2):</b>	<p>&lt;£100k = S151 Officer</p> <p>&gt;£100k but &lt;£500k = Cabinet</p> <p>&gt;£500k = Full Council</p>
<b>Approval of capital expenditure (FPR 7.4)</b>	<p>&lt;£250k = S151 Officer</p> <p>&gt;£250k but &lt;£2m = Cabinet Member at Decision Day</p> <p>&gt;£2m = Cabinet</p>

## 16 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 16.1 Retaining the current ringfencing of available CIL funds in three pots has been discounted, as demand on two of the pots far exceeds demand for the third pot for transport and active travel. If the ringfences were retained in their current form, then community and WCC projects would remain unfunded, while pot for transport and active travel projects continues to grow.
- 16.2 Various options were considered for the allocation of grant funds to applicants. All applications were assessed against the approved scheme criteria and the recommendations represent the best balance of maximising support for projects while retaining a sufficient level of reserves to maintain a programme of CIL allocations through to LGR in 2028.
- 16.3 The council's 'Solar for Business' schemes at Winchester Cathedral and Winchester Science Centre could be funded through other sources such as prudential borrowing, but utilising CIL funds to deliver these schemes would

provide significant revenue benefits over the 25-year life of the panels as well as mitigate against the risk of falling electricity prices in the future.

- 16.4 Leaving the CIL application, evaluation and approval process unchanged would limit us to one bidding round per year. This would reduce opportunities for investment in infrastructure and risk good projects being delayed or unable to access the necessary funding.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

##### Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3518 - Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocations – 10 September 2025

CAB3484 – Central Winchester Regeneration Delivery Plan - 13 March 2025

CAB3498 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Allocations for 2024 Bids – 13 March 2025

CAB3385 - Community Infrastructure Levy – 18 July 2023

CAB3292 - Community Infrastructure Levy Future Funding Priorities and Monitoring Update – 10 March 2021

CAB3071 - Community Infrastructure Levy Operational Review - 19 September 2018

CAB2807 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Protocol – 8 June 2016

##### Other Background Documents:-

[Infrastructure Funding Statement \(2024\) for Winchester City Council](#)

#### APPENDICES:

1. Strategic Procedural Overview for CIL allocation and spending
2. Summary of bids received, scoring assessment and recommended grant award
3. Equality impact assessment
4. Assessment criteria