

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Cabinet notes the contents of the report and approves £100k of CIL funds to be allocated towards The Football Foundation, Ringwood Project, as set out in section 4 of the report.
- 1.2 That the Cabinet approves a delegation to an Executive Head or Strategic Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure to commit CIL funds to approved mitigation and infrastructure projects within the confines of the overall agreed approved CIL budget as included within the Council's Capital Programme.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In April 2015 the Council introduced Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging. Cabinet agreed on the 1 October 2014 that to comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 the first call on any CIL funds will be projects to mitigate the recreational impacts of new residential development on the New Forest National Park. The Council, as Competent Authority, has a duty to ensure that development proposals will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of a designated area. This was in response to Policy DM3 of the adopted Local Plan Part 2 which set out the agreed approach to the mitigation of recreational impacts. This policy has now been superseded by Policy ENV1 in the recently adopted Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy (July 2020).
- 2.2 Whilst the Local Plan adopted in July 2020 sets out an alternative approach to recreational mitigation for the strategic allocation sites there is still development that has, is and will be built that needs recreational mitigation and therefore the current CIL receipts are committed to current and future projects that mitigation the recreational pressure on the New Forest National Park resulting from development.
- 2.3 Further detail of the agreed approach to the mitigation of recreational impact is set out in the Mitigation for Recreational Impacts on New Forest European Sites Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2021, which updated the previous SPD adopted in 2014.
- 2.4 The context of the original mitigation strategy was one of much lower levels of new development than now being planned for in the district than previously. Higher levels of overall development now need to be addressed. The changes in the mitigation strategy set out above, and agreed through the Local Plan process, are a response to these higher levels of growth. These changes, together with the experience gained from implementing a recreational mitigation strategy over a six-year period, have informed the revised Recreational Mitigation Strategy SPD.
- 2.5 Unlike the 2014 SPD, the 2021 SPD does not include a full programme of off-site mitigation projects for the full plan period. A five-year programme of off-site mitigation projects, which will be reviewed annually will be the subject of a separate Cabinet report.

- 2.6 There will be an increase in CIL monies with the increased levels of development that will be delivered through the Local Plan 2016- 2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy (July 2020). A future Cabinet report will set out a proposed mechanism for how the Council will decide which infrastructure projects those receipts will be allocated to.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 At the start of this financial year the Council held £6.4m to be utilised towards infrastructure projects (outside of the element of CIL to be passed to local Councils and used for administration of the CIL process). Whilst a large sum will be required to implement the required recreational mitigation projects, it does allow the Council an amount of flexibility to allocate a proportion of overall funds to other infrastructure projects.
- 3.2 The Council's original Capital Programme budget for 2022/23, as set in February 2022, included a budget of £680,000 to be spent on delivering projects, funded through CIL. It is envisaged that this funding will be fully utilised to fund confirmed and committed schemes by the end of the financial year.

4. PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF CIL FUNDS TO THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATION, RINGWOOD PROJECT.

- 4.1 The Council are currently working with AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust, Ringwood Town Council and Ringwood Town Football Club to develop the facilities at Long Lane, Ringwood.
- 4.2 The site will continue to be the home of Ringwood Town FC and will enable staff and players associated with AFC Bournemouth's Community Sports Trust to be based on site. Crucially, a number of community programmes will also be based on site and all in the one location. The phased development will comprise of a new full size 3G artificial turf pitch (ATP), improvements to existing grass pitches, redeveloping the car park and a new pavilion with changing rooms.
- 4.3 Historic Section 106 open space allocations have been utilised to provide funding of £435k. Third party funding totalling more than £2M, has been made by AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust, the Football Foundation and a loan to be arranged and repaid by Ringwood Town Council, there is a funding shortfall of £100k. It is proposed that in addition to the contributions from S106 already utilised that £100k of CIL money is allocated towards this project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 CIL Regulations at Regulation 59 state "a charging authority must apply CIL to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area". The proposed project at Ringwood meets the definition of infrastructure.
- 5.2 There will be no financial impact to the Council as the project can be funded within the existing capital programme budget, and is fully funded by CIL.

6. CRIME & DISORDER AND, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The identified proposals bring direct environmental as well as health and well-being and climate change benefits through the provision of new public open space, improving and enabling greater use of existing open space and the creation of new of sustainable walking routes.

8. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 9.1 I welcome the use of CIL money to support what will be an excellent sporting facility in Ringwood, which will be a valuable asset to the community.

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Background Papers:

[Cabinet Paper 1 October 2014 –
Community Infrastructure Levy](#)

[Cabinet Paper 4 February 2015 –
Allocation of Developer Contributions](#)