

**PLANNING, REGENERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER
DECISION – 7 MARCH 2023**

**ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY -
RECREATIONAL MITIGATION PROJECTS**

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the list of projects as shown at Appendix 1 are financed from Community Infrastructure Levy funding held by the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 1 October 2014 the Cabinet considered and agreed a report on the future allocation of CIL money. It was agreed 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 and Southampton Water/Solent European designations.
- 2.2 Policy DM3 of the adopted Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management, sets out the agreed approach to mitigation of the recreational impacts arising from new residential development in the Plan Area. Further detail of the agreed approach to the mitigation of recreational impacts outlined in policy DM3 is set out in the Mitigation for European Sites Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The adopted SPD included a long list of projects to be delivered over an extended period.
- 2.3 Each year a range of projects from the approved projects list have been delivered funded from CIL contributions. This report seeks approval for the allocation of CIL contributions to be spent on projects as shown within Appendix One across the New Forest District Planning Area.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE FUNDED FROM CIL

- 3.1 CIL funds are sought for eleven projects, across the settlements of Hythe, Lymington, New Milton and Totton. The total cost of these projects is expected to be £830,000. Projects include new open spaces and pathways along with improvements to existing spaces and routes. The schemes are targeted to commence during 2023/24. Further details are set out in Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council are currently holding all the identified funds to deliver these projects and therefore there would be no direct cost to the Council. Should the projects not be progressed then officers will need to identify alternative projects to ensure that the contributions held are delivered on suitable schemes to enable the Council to comply with the Habitat Regulations.
- 4.2 Provision has been made in costings for some inflationary pressures for the delivery of these projects. Should allocated funds be insufficient to deliver all the projects identified, additional funds from CIL receipts (in consultation with portfolio holder) or value engineering of the schemes will need to occur within budget year to deliver the projects.

4.3 The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 includes a £1M holding budget to be allocated to individual approved CIL, Open Space and Transportation projects as and when they commence into delivery.

5. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals are intended to increase pedestrian activity in areas that are under-used or don't currently have public access. The projects will be convenient, attractive and safe to use with increasing footfall providing improved safety and security.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The identified proposals bring direct environmental benefits through enhancing, improving and increasing capacity by enabling greater use of existing open space for informal recreation, new habitat creation and enhanced management techniques.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The projects identified above will improve accessibility in their respective areas and provide enhanced opportunities for people who are less able.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Sign: Cllr Diane Andrews

Date: 7 March 2023

For further information contact:

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Background Papers:

Cabinet Paper 4 February 2015 – Initial
list of CIL projects and policy documents
[February 2015 Cabinet Report link here](#)

Cabinet Paper 2 November 2022
Update on Community Infrastructure Levy
[November 2022 Cabinet report link here](#)

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 7 March 2023

Last date for call in – 14 March 2023

Appendix 1 - Projects to be funded from CIL contributions

Settlement	ID	Project	Brief description of project	Estimated spend
Hythe	HD4	Oaklands Way Challenger Way	Waymarking and signage for circular walks. Upgrading footpaths to improve accessibility	£20,000
Lymington	Ly4	Woodside Gardens	Improved access across the site and connecting with surrounding communities	£165,000
Lymington	Ly5	Lymington walking signage	Signage to encourage use of Grove Gardens and connections to local facilities.	£50,000
Lymington	Ly6	Rowans Park	Improvements to site accessibility from surrounding area and enhancements to existing natural green space	£66,000
Lymington	Ly8	Lymington walking routes, including Ramley Road/ Widbury's Copse/ Newbridge Copse/ Woodside Gardens	Promotion and enhancement of walking routes in Lymington	£104,000
New Milton	NM5	Carrick Way Woodland	Improved public access to the woodland including upgraded surfacing and new signage.	£130,000

Settlement	ID	Project	Brief description of project	Estimated spend
New Milton	NM6	Ashington Park	Path improvements and new circular route, including signage, seating and bins.	£52,000
Totton	To1	Bartley Park extension	Extension to the south of the skateboard park to provide additional natural green space and increased accessibility.	£150,000
Totton	To3	Testwood Recreation Ground Phase 1	Initial phase of improvements to the western end of the recreation ground to provide informal open space enhancements.	£53,000
Totton	To4b	King George's Recreation Ground	New link path to connect King George's Recreation Ground to adjoining new alternative natural green space	£7,000
Totton	To8	Bartley Park walking route	Upgrade low key paths and informal routes to increase use and attract dog walkers	£33,000
			Total	£830,000