

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Bob Goodman, Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 14 December 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3110
TITLE:	Neighbourhood CIL for Bath - Approval of the fourth round of project recommendations	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appx 1: CIL for Bath Round Four – Four Projects</p> <p>Appx 2: Bath CIL Working Group Minutes 3rd September 2018</p> <p>Appx 3: Bath City Forum Minutes 18th September 2018</p> <p>Appx 4: Bath CIL Working Group Minutes 5 November 2018</p> <p>Appx 5: Bath City Forum Minutes 13 November 2018</p>		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report sets out the recommendations from the Bath City Forum relating to the fourth allocation of funding to four projects from Bath's "neighbourhood portion" of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods is asked:

2.1 To agree a £2,450 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Bathwick St Mary School Road Safety Application BA047

2.2 To agree a £41,076 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Sydney Gardens Improvements Application BA050

2.3 To agree a £15,000 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for SCP Administration CIL Application BA054

2.4 To agree a £18,000 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Moorland Road Library CIL Application BA052

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The funding allocations for the recommended projects are to be drawn down from existing CIL contributions set aside for neighbourhood projects.

3.2 Bath CIL neighbourhood receipts up to 17 September 2018 are £717k. Presently the total amount of receipts which are available for drawdown for Bath projects is £437K.

3.3 Other than the agreed funding recommendations there are no further revenue costs from the neighbourhood CIL funds to any of the four recommended projects.

3.4 There are no other financial implications for the Council.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Regulation 59C of the 2010 Regulations as amended provides that local councils (those who spend the neighbourhood portion of the CIL) can spend these funds “supporting the development of the local council’s area, or any part of that area, by funding (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”.

4.2 Guidance requires that in the absence of any parish or town Council for Bath, Bath and North East Somerset Council hold the Neighbourhood portion of CIL funding for Bath pending allocation. In allocating funding, the Council should engage with communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to allocate the funding.

4.3 In establishing the Bath City Forum, Council included in its terms of reference (July 2015); “The Bath City Forum shall be an advisory and consultative body and shall not have delegated funding or decision-making powers. It may assist and advise the Council on issues specific to the City such as how best to spend that portion of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts which are used to address local priorities”. Cabinet agreed the revised B&NES CIL Spend Protocol at its meeting on 8th November 2017.

4.4 The Forum, having established a working group, process and criteria to formulate recommendations for allocation of the neighbourhood portion for Bath, is now recommending to Cabinet the fourth set of proposals to be supported from this fund.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The “neighbourhood portion” of the Community Infrastructure Levy comprises 15% of the total CIL amount generated from development within the city. In the absence of a town or parish council, it is for Bath & North East Somerset to hold such funding but it must be allocated through engagement with the communities where development has taken place. In the year 2018-2019 the balance of £437K must be used for “supporting the development of the local council’s area, or any part of that area, by funding (a) the provision, improvement, replacement,

operation or maintenance of infrastructure or (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area". It should be noted that (b) above provides a lower threshold than for the main strategic section of the CIL, which must be spent on the infrastructure set out in the Council's Regulation 123 list.

5.2 The Bath City Forum was established by Council at its meeting of 16th July 2015. It comprises 12 elected Bath & North East Somerset councillors, representing Bath City wards and not serving in the Council's Cabinet, One member of the Cabinet to ensure effective linkages between the Forum and 13 co-opted members who are not Bath & North East Somerset elected councillors but drawn from residents, business, heritage and other groups within the City. A total of twenty-six individuals. Included in the Forum's terms of reference agreed by Council are; The Bath City Forum shall be an advisory and consultative body and shall not have delegated funding or decision-making powers. It may assist and advise the Council on issues specific to the City such as how best to spend that portion of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts which are used to address local priorities. Cabinet agreed the revised B&NES CIL Spend Protocol at its meeting on 8th November 2017.

5.3 Following work undertaken by a special CIL "task and finish group", and a dedicated workshop on this issue, to which all Bath ward members were invited, the Forum has established a clear and transparent process for preparing recommendations to Cabinet on the neighbourhood portion of CIL for Bath. This comprises:

- Dedicated web pages which provide an update on the CIL neighbourhood portion in Bath and a rolling open application process to submit projects which meet the criteria.
- An application form requesting details of local engagement on the proposed project and information as to how it meets the demands of development.
- Dissemination through a wide range of methods including through social media, ward members and the Council's Funding Bulletin.
- The establishment of a working group, drawn from the Forum's membership and involving relevant ward members as appropriate, to consider applications arising from this process.
- All projects are required to complete a funding agreement which will monitor achievements as set out in the original application form. A designated monitoring officer has been identified to oversee this process.

5.4 The projects recommended in this report were considered at two working group meetings which took place on 3rd September 2018 and 5th November 2018. Recommendations were subsequently agreed at the full meetings of the Bath City Forum on the 18th September 2018 and 13th November 2018. The minutes of the sub-groups are included as appx 2. The recommended projects arising from this process are summarised below:

1. To agree a £2,450 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Bathwick St Mary School Road Safety Application BA047 - The local developments that are underway in this area will see an increase in traffic levels on the school route. In providing improvements to the infrastructure through the addition of new bollards and additional signage the community will be assisted with road safety issues near the school.
2. To agree a £41,076 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Sydney Gardens Improvements Application BA050 - This application shows that a great deal of consultation has taken place with residents in the overall project for the redevelopment of Sydney Gardens. The new infrastructure that is planned will provide some unique facilities to the residents and visitors to the park. The funding for an accessible changing places facility will provide for those with disabilities to use the park more freely. The overall project has a number of other funding streams and provides a great opportunity for volunteering projects. Developments locally include Holbourne Park where over 200 new homes are being developed.
3. To agree a £15,000 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for SCP Administration CIL Application BA054 - This project provides funding for an employed support member of staff on a part time basis for a two year period. The SCP co-ordinator will be enabled to carry out a greater level of strategic work and have a greater amount of time spent carrying out face to face interactions with the public. Over the two year period work is proposed to forge links with other organisations to secure funding to sustain the role longer term.

This application has the aim of providing additional operational support to the social infrastructure that is provided through the SCP. The links to the developments which have provided accommodation for students in Bath has had the impact of seeing the introduction of higher levels of students to communities which have not historically had to deal with the social integration change that comes from the new high capacity accommodation blocks. The provision of additional face to face time with the SCP Co-ordinator will educate and build the resilience that the communities need to deal with a range of issues that the higher levels of students bring.

4. To agree a £18,000 allocation from the Bath CIL neighbourhood portion for Moorland Road Library CIL Application BA052 - This application will provide this newly established community organisation with a staggered injection of funding over a three year period. The early years are important for the organisation as they are transitioning the delivery of the library service from a Council provided service to a service that will be run by community volunteers. The size of the premises limits other revenue opportunities that other community library locations have been able to work on. The support to keep the library open is backed up by the survey of local people that has been conducted.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The process set out in this report ensured full consideration of the criteria contained in Regulation 59C of the 2010 Regulations as amended and it is therefore considered appropriate that these recommendations be made.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 Consideration was given to this report being presented to full Cabinet but it is considered appropriate that this be a single member decision.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Each of the four applications which are contained within this recommendation submitted for agreement has completed a project expression of interest and application for funding form. All projects identify the local consultation and engagement that has taken place and this was further tested through the process set out in this report.

8.2 Following consideration of the findings from the Working Group for the Neighbourhood portion of CIL for Bath, Bath City Forum consisting of 12 elected Bath & North East Somerset councillors, and 13 co-opted members agreed the recommendations.

8.3 The Bath & North East Somerset Council Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer were both consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.4 This report has undergone a public sector equalities duty assessment.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	08.11.17 Cabinet Decision 142 - B&NES Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending arrangements 2018/19
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