Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Local Spending Board

Date of meeting: 8th March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Allocation of the meaningful proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy funds for Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Planning Policy</td>
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<td>Portfolio Holder:</td>
<td>Portfolio Holder for Planning Services</td>
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<td>Link to Council Priorities:</td>
<td>P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exempt information:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Delegated status:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Key decision:</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Council adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in April 2013 and is required to allocate a ‘meaningful proportion’ of CIL collected within communities where development comes forward. This is to be spent on local infrastructure improvements needed to mitigate the impacts of development in that specific area. In July 2017 the Elmbridge Cabinet agreed that the amount allocated locally would be reduced to 15% from 25% in line with the minimum required in legislation. This change took effect for funds collected from August 2017. The remainder of CIL funds are allocated towards strategic infrastructure within the Borough and a separate governance structure has been set up to allocate these funds.

Detailed within this report are the applications submitted for 2017, to be considered by the Local Spending Board.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT

The Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Local Infrastructure Board consider the applications outlined within the report and award funding as appropriate.

REPORT:

1. Background
   1.1 In June 2013 it was agreed through Cabinet that the most appropriate way of allocating this ‘meaningful proportion’ of CIL funds in Elmbridge would be through the formation of Local Infrastructure Spending Boards. In areas that have a Parish Council legislation requires that these funds are passed directly to Parish Councils.

2. Funds available and rules of spending
   2.1 £360,000 is available for the settlement to allocate to local infrastructure. Legislation states that these funds must be spent on projects that meet the following criteria.
• The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
• Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

2.2 The definition of infrastructure is broad and includes:
• Roads and other transport infrastructure
• Flood defences
• Schools and other educational facilities
• Medical facilities
• Sporting and recreational facilities
• Open spaces

3. Funding applications received
3.1 Applications were invited between 20 November 2016 and 19 January 2018. The Council has received 4 applications for CIL funds. The total requested is £150,616.

3.2 Applicants have been invited to the meeting to speak in support of their application should they wish to. There will be the opportunity for Board members to ask any questions. All applicants have been asked to update the Board if any funding for the project has been awarded from other sources since the application date.

3.3 The applications are as follows:

• Hinchley Wood Secondary School for the provision of additional cycle parking for 60 bikes. CIL funding of £20,000 has been requested. One quotation has been provided which is consistent with the amount requested.

• Thames Ditton Infant School to replace an outdoor roof canopy to provide better outdoor provision for PE. CIL funding of £11,000 has been requested.

• Thames Ditton Foundation to reprofile Milbourne Pond. CIL funding of £13,116 has been requested. Three quotations have been provided, the lowest of which is consistent with the amount requested.

• Old Cranleighan Society to resurface the hockey pitch, extend the car park and provide bike storage facilities. CIL funding of £106,500 has been requested.

The full application forms and supporting information are available within Appendices A - D to this report. As part of the application process, annual
accounts are requested for organisations that are not in the public sector. These are also included where supplied.

4. **Update on 2017 CIL funded projects**

4.1 Hinchley Wood Secondary School installed the additional cycle parking funded and as this year’s application shows demand for the provision has continued to increase. Long Ditton St Marys Junior School has completed and opened the additional group space funded. The space has made a huge difference to the school, particularly for Special Educational Need provision. Finally, the works at the Thames Ditton Centre for the Community are planned for April/May 2018.

5. **Community feedback**

5.1 CIL guidance sets out that spending should reflect what local residents view as important improvements in their area. The extensive response to the 2017 Local Plan consultation provided a great deal of feedback from the local community on what they consider to be the infrastructure priorities for their area.

5.2 Local residents highlighted that they feel the infrastructure issues listed below are currently important considerations for existing levels of population and essential to address in relation to any future housing growth. In summary, the priority infrastructure issues referenced most frequently were education, health and transport with residents stating that existing infrastructure was at capacity. In particular there were concerns or suggestions regarding:

- School places and wider education provision
- GP surgeries and supporting healthcare provision
- Roads and traffic flows
- Public transport – including links to stations
- Access to parks and green spaces
- Rail capacity, both on train and at stations
- Parking provision, including at stations
- Need for exiting on and off A3 north and south bound
- Cycle paths
- Crossing facilities for local school children
- Solutions to traffic issues outside schools
- More cycle racks at key locations
- Accessibility improvements at local stations
- Zebra crossing on Manor Road
- Cycle Lane on Manor Road / Claygate Lane
- Drainage improvements
- Community facilities

5.3 The views expressed by the local community on infrastructure priorities are important considerations when assessing applications for funding.
Decision making

To inform decision making all applications submitted have been scored by two officers against a number of criteria to indicate the suitability and value in considering for CIL funding. This assessment is provided as a guide to support Councillor’s decision making and aims to give a value to the criteria that Councillors have always been asked to consider. Scores have been weighted to place a higher value on projects that most obviously address the impacts of development, in line with the purposes of CIL. Criteria used are:

- The extent to which the project mitigates the impact of development within the borough
- The level of benefits to residents, including evidence of community support
- The level of match funding attached to the project
- Value for money of the scheme and added value that CIL could deliver
- Deliverability

Whilst not an exhaustive list, infrastructure that has been previously identified as particular priorities to meet the needs of development within this settlement include:

- Transport schemes including Quality Bus Corridor improvements, improved cycling infrastructure and safety improvements outside schools. It also includes schemes supportive of air quality improvements
- Improvements to built community space
- Improvements to children’s play park provision
- Improvements to and additional open space

These priorities have been identified in existing infrastructure plans such as the 2014 Open Space Assessment, 2014 Elmbridge Local Transport Strategy, 2016/17-2025/26 School Organisation Plan, 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Elmbridge Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012.

As the scoring assessment shows there are some projects that correspond with known infrastructure issues and are able to demonstrate that they are assisting in mitigating the impacts of development. The additional cycle parking at Hinchley Wood School and Old Cranleighans helps address comments made during the Local Plan consultation about the need for additional cycle parking in key locations. Additional facilities at the school could also link to the wider aspiration of improving traffic flows along Claygate Lane.

For a number of projects, it is less evident how the proposal is addressing the demands that development places on an area. This is particularly an issue where projects are providing a like for like replacement of facilities that have reached the end of their natural life. Councillors will need to consider this issue and the suitability of using CIL funding along with the level of funding requested relative to wider community benefit.
6.5 Local Ward Councillors will be asked to either:
   1. Recommend awarding full or part funding towards the schemes submitted
   2. Refuse funding towards a scheme

6.6 If required, award of funding can be conditional on further information being provided. In line with procurement requirements, all applications for over £5,000 will be required to provide evidence of a minimum of three written quotations of work. Approved funding is paid to applicants on submission of verifiable invoices for the project.

6.7 Unallocated funds will be rolled over and be available for future allocation rounds.

**Financial Implications:**
£360,000 is available for the settlement of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green and funding applications totalling £150,616 have been received.

**Environmental / Sustainability Implications:**
Improvements to infrastructure within the Borough assist in improving the sustainability of the area.

**Legal Implications:**
Relevant to meeting the Council’s obligations under the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended).

**Equality Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Risk Implications:**
Approved funding is paid on the submission of verifiable invoices ensuring that money is used for the projects as described.

**Community Safety Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Principal Consultees**
All Local Ward Councillors and Surrey County Councillors for Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green.

**Background Papers:**
None for the purpose of this report

**Enclosures/Appendices:**
Appendices A - E