

Appendix C

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SPEND LOCAL PROPORTION IN NON-PARISHED AREAS – BID SCORING GUIDANCE

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds will be collected from some developments that occur in a ward area. Up to 80% of funds collected are used for strategic infrastructure projects, required to make development more acceptable and will aim to mitigate the impacts of development in the Borough. 15% - 25% of funds collected are allocated to neighbourhood CIL, which is open to the community to access and use. Funds are collected from developments and placed into 'ward pots' determined by where the original development took place, which will now be open to 'bids' from community groups, or wards as a whole. The remaining 5% of the levy covers the administrative costs of utilising CIL in the Borough.

What is Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL)?

Neighbourhood CIL is intended to help address the demands of a new development on the local area. This neighbourhood proportion is up to 25% of CIL receipts in areas with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and up to 15% (capped at £100 per existing council tax dwelling) in areas without a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, if development occurs in an area, funds will be collected for the community to use to mitigate any impacts they have identified. For example, this could include any increase in population due to new homes built, leading to more demand for the use of play equipment, and therefore would warrant upgrading.

At Solihull, a bidding system is open to communities to attempt to secure funding for projects that will benefit the local area. The fund total will be released annually, in April, and these funds will be open to bids until July 31st. Solihull MBC aim to fund the most appropriate projects (for an area), to ensure this, a screening application form will enable officers to best allocate funding. The funding will be become available once the ward allocation pot reaches £10,000.

What NCIL can and cannot fund:

The neighbourhood portion of CIL is an opportunity for communities to improve their local area. CIL can only be spent on capital projects and must come under the definition of *infrastructure*. This is a very broad range of potential projects for communities to develop, which could include (but is not limited to):

- Sports/outdoor gym facilities and play equipment
- Green spaces, parks and community gardens
- Community infrastructure improvements i.e. expansion of village halls or the provision of more facilities for the community

NCIL cannot be used to fund solutions to pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision, unless those deficiencies can be proven to be made worse by new development. NCIL cannot fund projects that are considered to be events (such as village fetes or firework displays).

1. Criteria for Community Bids

All applications *must* provide a detailed description of the nature of the project, including how much money is likely to be needed and for what purpose. It must identify every party with a legal interest in or responsibility for the land/buildings where the project will be undertaken. The key stakeholders included in the project must be in agreement as to the nature of the project (including, spending cost, timescales, extent etc.).

An application to allocate NCIL will be unable to be taken forward for consideration if it does not make an attempt to meet all of the criteria below:

However, the project will be assessed against these criteria and will be considered on a case by case basis.

1.1. Infrastructure:

The final output of the project should be a piece of infrastructure (I.e. a village fete or local event is not considered acceptable or appropriate for NCIL funding and will not be considered in the process).

1.2. Maintenance:

The project should be self sufficient in the maintenance of infrastructure and/or services.

There should not be an on-going revenue cost (to Solihull or otherwise) which has not already been sufficiently met through existing project funding. There will need to be a clear approach outlined in meeting any outstanding/on-going liabilities that the project may face.

1.3. Benefits of the project:

The project should demonstrate some level of community benefit from the project.

Demonstrate the levels of community benefit of the project:

- Limited - Local benefit – *this could include the immediate local area/community*
- Moderate - More than local benefit OR disadvantaged group to benefit – *this could include a wider level of the local community, or a group that has seen a lack in provision in the particular service that the project is aiming to create/provide. Similarly, this could be an identified disadvantaged group that*
- High - Most of the community to benefit – *the wider community area, potentially including some disadvantaged groups (if identified in the area). The community benefit of the project here is seen to be necessary and would be well received by all.*

1.4. Public Support:

The project should demonstrate some level of public support for the project. This may include

- a. A ward member

- b. A community group,
- c. Another demonstration of the wider community.

Projects with more demonstrations of support (listed above) may be favoured in decision making or in the allocation of funds.

Demonstration of public support can be in the form of public petitions, outcomes of community consultations or appraisals, outcomes from open days, letters of support, or fundraising initiatives in support of the potential project.

1.5. Council Plan:

The project should attempt to support a priority identified in the Council Plan.

Projects will be favoured if they identify more priorities in the Council Plan (3+ priorities identified being the most favourable). This will ensure that the Council, ward members and the community are working together to achieve these goals to best serve the borough.

1.6. Neighbourhood plan (where applicable):

Where a neighbourhood plan is in place, infrastructure projects that contribute to priority/priorities will score favourably in and will be more likely to receive funding.

If a neighbourhood plan is not in place, this will not reduce a project's likelihood of securing funding, as bids are assessed against bids within the same ward, rather than on a borough wide basis.

1.7. Project Plan:

Applicants should also have a clear timetable for the delivery of the projects, including a deadline for the funds to be spent. Detailed designs and costing of the project are heavily desired, and will aid in officer's decision making process.

The projects will be scored against the level of development of project plans, with the most developed projected potentially favoured in the application process. This will ensure the timely delivery of projects, which in turn will benefit communities and mitigate the potential impacts of development.

1.8. Funding:

A project will not be taken forward unless there is a clear description of the project outlining how much money is likely to be needed and for what purpose. Furthermore, for projects to be approved for funding, sufficient local CIL funds must have been collected in the ward.

The project may benefit in the selection process through securing match/gap/crowd funding. Officers will prioritise projects that have attempted to look for/have secured alternative sources of funding. This is considered to be more beneficial to the project, and the NCIL process as this opens up the potential for more projects to be funded the NCIL pot.

1.9. Risk:

If significant risk is identified in the project, the application will be declined on this basis.

Potential risks may include:

- Risk to public safety/health
- Risk that there is a significant chance of the project being uncompleted or not achieving outcomes identified.