

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – April 2019

The report “Allocation of Local Community Infrastructure Levy Funding” was considered by cabinet on 11 December 2018.

The overview and scrutiny committee considered the call-in at its meeting on 21 January 2019. The committee decided not to refer the decision back to cabinet, but made the following recommendations:

That the cabinet member would return to the committee for a pre-decision scrutiny session on the proposed process for developing community investment plans, taking account of the committee’s recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1 - That the lists of projects are checked with community councils to identify potential discrepancies but that this process should not delay work on agreed projects.

Answer: This is currently occurring. However it has not been possible to complete this with the community councils identifying these potential discrepancies due to timescales and calendar clashes. Meetings have taken place with the community council chairs to clarify as the community council system is also currently under review. If they were to be changed significantly the whole approach to Community Investment Plans (CIPs) and what is defined as “local” may need to be further refined. Also the governance arrangements currently in place may need to be modified.

Recommendation 2 - That the requirements for projects eligible for neighbourhood CIL funding to be on the council plan or included in the capital programme be abolished, as inappropriate for the allocation of neighbourhood CIL, which is intended to mitigate the impact of development at a very local level by addressing locally identified needs and not plug holes in council budget

Answer: It is recognised by the legislation and by the council that it is crucial that the CIL collected supports the growth that will take place through development by addressing local needs. It is proposed that the Community Investment Plans will be based on a clear, unambiguous and locally agreed set of criteria. These will be developed in an open and transparent way involving local members and stakeholders. While it is envisaged that these will link with the council’s objectives; local needs and aspirations will play a crucial role in the development of the criteria especially where there are demonstrable inequalities across the borough.

Recommendation 3 - That the neighbourhood portion of CIL should be spent in the ward or locality in which it has been collected, to ensure that the effects of development are mitigated where development has taken place.

Answer: Under the legislation, mitigating the impact of development is a function of S106. The role of the neighbourhood CIL is to support the growth that occurs through development by providing local benefit. As discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January it was recognised that determining a ‘one size fits all’ definition of what constitutes ‘local’ would be problematic. In addition it is appreciated that some communities straddle different ward boundaries (a fact brought up at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) whereas others form just a part of a ward.

Community Investment Plans will be developed in an open and transparent way taking account of local needs and aspirations while recognising the inequalities across the borough.

Finally the committee agreed that the decision taken by cabinet on 11 December 2018 could be implemented. The agreed projects that officers were instructed to continue working on were in appendix 1 of the December Cabinet report;

These were:

Project	Community Council	Updated notes
Harper Road Improvements	BB&W Chaucer*	The shopfront scheme is currently on site.
Newington Gardens	BB&W Chaucer	To discuss with Parks Dept the scope of works required.
St Mary's Churchyard Path Improvements	BB&W Cathedrals	To discuss with Parks Dept the scope of works required
Little Dorrit Park Improvements	BB&W Cathedrals	To discuss proposals with BOST and tie-in with the S106 secured from the adjacent development.
St Mary Magdalene Churchyard path to Tanner Street Park	B&R Grange	Adjacent developments will part-deliver this scheme.
Spa Road pedestrian crossing	B&R Grange	Draft budget discussed with Highways Dept.
New Community facilities on Surrey Docks Farm	B&R Surrey Docks	£511,000 allocated. Scheme tendered and Phase 1 works start on site in April.
Improvements to Albion Street	B&R Rotherhithe	Project proposals under development by Regeneration North team.
Shad Thames Streets projects	B&R Riverside	Highways Dept. have a scheme part funded with S106. Currently investigating what elements could be funded with the Local CIL available.

*NOTE – wards quoted are those where the funding was original collected

Projects proposed that officers undertake further work

Project	Community Council	Notes
Camberwell Road Pedestrian safety	Camberwell Camberwell Green	Highways are currently working on a scheme. Works within the town centre currently on site.
Pedestrian Crossing facilities – Lordship Lane/Dulwich Common	Dulwich College	Discuss with Highways the feasibility as would need TFL involvement.
Pedestrian Crossing facilities – Dulwich Wood Park	Dulwich College	Highways have a scheme drawn up that the NCIL could support.