

**STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATIONS
PANEL**

Minutes of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy Allocations Panel held in the Committee Room at Bexhill Town Hall on Friday 9 December 2022 at 1.00 pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors J. Vine-Hall (Chair), A.K. Jeeawon, P.N. Osborne and C. Bayliss.

Other Members present: Councillor Paul Courtel (Observing)

Advisory Officers in attendance: Ben Hook – Director of Place and Climate Change, Anthony Baden – Chief Finance Officer, Jeff Pyrah – Planning Policy Manager, Aaron Sams – Principal CIL Officer and Ben Yates – Planning Assistant

CILP11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K.M Harmer.

CILP12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J. Vine-Hall declared an interest on agenda item 4 as Chair of Sedlescombe Parish Council but was not involved in the preparation of the expressions of interest.

Councillor C. Bayliss declared an interest on agenda item 4 as being involved with the West Station Project in Bexhill-On-Sea.

CILP13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2022

The Panel approved the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

**CILP14 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY
FUNDING PRIORITY LIST AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Principal CIL Officer introduced the report and outlined the details of the Expression of Interest (EOI) round and the Priority List.

The Chair updated the Panel on the amount of funding available in each separate pot and provided clarity on the requirements for funding being allocated.

CLIP15 PRIORITY LIST

The Panel were informed that the Priority List has been separated into two parts. The 'Full List' contains all infrastructure items, including Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), survey responses and EOI items. And the 'Priority List 2023' is comprised of the items which officers are recommending are invited to put forward funding applications, these items have been assessed to be provisionally costed, sufficiently match-funded (if required) and meeting the requirements of the CIL Regulations.

CLIP16 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) ROUND

The Panel were informed that the EOI round had run for 8-weeks and that all Town & Parish Councils and relevant infrastructure providers were invited to put forward an expression. The EOI round was also advertised on the RDC website. The purpose of the round was to gather up to date information on infrastructure projects and provision required in the district so that officers could update the Priority List for 2023.

The Panel heard that 22 EOI's were received. These have been assessed by officers and recommendations have been made on whether to invite the projects to put forward funding applications. Of the 22 received 9 were recommended for applying for funding.

The Panel agreed that projects which are not invited to apply, but which meet other funding requirements, will be kept on the full priority list for possible future consideration and so that the Panel have a full picture of the infrastructure provision required in the district.

The Panel discussed and considered each EOI which has been submitted and made the resolutions as set out below.

Project Details	Panel and Officer Discussion	Panel Resolution
<p>Project: All weather running track in Sedlescombe</p> <p>Submitted by: Sedlescombe Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £65k-£95k</p> <p>Funding Pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>Councillor J. Vine-Hall informed that Panel that this project has match-funding.</p> <p>The Panel felt that although this project would be beneficial to the local community, it is not currently an infrastructure priority.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Traffic Calming in Sedlescombe</p> <p>Submitted by: Sedlescombe Parish Council</p>	<p>Councillor J. Vine-Hall informed the Panel that the EOI form contained some factual errors.</p> <p>The project is match-funded and</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project. The application will need to demonstrate its match-</i></p>

<p>CIL requested: £200k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>has support from East Sussex County Council.</p> <p>The Director of Place and Climate Change advised the Panel that the factual errors on the EOI should be corrected in a full funding application and it will be the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that match funding and county support is in place.</p> <p>The Panel heard that the project is included as a priority in Sedlescombe Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p><i>funding and county support.</i></p>
<p>Project: Provision of Electric Car Charging Points in an extended Bell Field car park - Ticehurst</p> <p>Submitted by: Ticehurst Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £200k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that match-funding has not been demonstrated.</p> <p>The Panel sought clarification whether this project could instead be funded from the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund (CEBF), which is designed for funding carbon reducing projects. The Panel were informed that the CEBF is for more strategically focused projects which have a wider impact across the district. The Planning Policy Manager further added that the Panel would need further information to determine the strategic importance – for example whether the project has wider county support.</p> <p>The Panel discussed whether EV charging points should be funded by Strategic CIL, when it could be considered the responsibility of the energy providers to establish these.</p> <p>The Director of Place and Climate Change informed the Panel that the need of this project has not been strategically assessed by RDC,</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application, but instead requested that the Principal CIL Officer contacts the applicant requesting further project details as set out in the Panel and officer discussion points.</i></p>

	<p>but that there is merit of EV charging points in some areas where circumstances justify.</p> <p>The Panel felt ultimately that they required more information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of charging points and the estimated cost of each one. • The extension of the car park and how the funding requested relates to this aspect. • The evidence base for the charging points. Including, impact on the local power supply and estimations of local demand. <p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that this information can be requested and fed back to the Panel at the next meeting. The Panel can then consider whether to invite a funding application.</p>	
<p>Project: Pavilion rebuild at North Trade Road Recreation Ground, Battle</p> <p>Submitted by: Battle Town Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £400k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that they considered a funding application on this project at their previous meeting in June. It was agreed at this meeting that the applicant should re-apply with some items (funding & environmental) addressed.</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the EOI and discussed the increased funding which has been secured, the need of the project and the wider impact of this type of provision.</p> <p>The Panel did wish to request further information from the applicant on the type of usage of the pavilion, noting that strategic CIL should be for strategic infrastructure required to support development.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

<p>Project: New Community Hub in Fairlight</p> <p>Submitted by: Fairlight Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £250k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that Fairlight Parish Council has not received sufficient local CIL to provide match-funding for this project.</p> <p>The Panel expressed concern regarding providing high amounts of CIL funding to areas with lower levels of development.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Wood Field Playground improvements</p> <p>Submitted by: Fairlight Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £25k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel were reminded of the £30,000 minimum funding amount, which is greater than the amount requested in this EOI.</p> <p>The Panel expressed concern regarding providing strategic CIL funding to areas with lower levels of development and felt that this project may be better suited for Community Grant Funding or local fund raising.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Streetlight Replacement Project</p> <p>Submitted by: Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £38k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that there has not been development within the area and therefore there is no local CIL to be allocated towards match-funding.</p> <p>The Panel welcomed energy efficiency measures but felt that the project was too localised for strategic funding.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: New Cricket Pavilion in Westfield</p> <p>Submitted by: Westfield Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £150k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that the area has had some development, but that much of this has not been CIL liable and therefore has not generated sufficient local CIL to provide match-funding.</p> <p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that this project could qualify for funding from the 'Residual Fund'. This fund is designed for projects which are seeking funding in areas where development has</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>

	<p>not generated CIL. However, it was noted that this fund is to be used when there is an under allocation of funds from the main Infrastructure Matched Fund.</p> <p>The Panel felt that this project was not a high enough strategic infrastructure priority to allow for funds to be placed into and used from the Residual Fund at this stage.</p>	
<p>Project: Refurbishing Westfield Scout Hut</p> <p>Submitted by: Westfield Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £60k</p> <p>Funding pot: Infrastructure Matched Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that the area has had some development, but that much of this has not been CIL liable and therefore has not generated sufficient local CIL to provide match-funding.</p> <p>Although the applicant states that over 50% match-funding has been secured, there is no local CIL being allocated towards the project. The Panel felt that a project would need to demonstrate a wider strategic benefit in order to receive strategic CIL funding towards a project in an area that has not generated local CIL.</p> <p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that this project could qualify for funding from the 'Residual Fund'. This fund is designed for projects which are seeking funding in areas where development has not generated CIL. However, it was noted that this fund is to be used when there is an under allocation of funds from the main Infrastructure Matched Fund.</p> <p>The Panel felt that this project was not a high enough strategic infrastructure priority to allow for funds to be placed into and used from the Residual Fund at this stage.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Bexhill Fire Station refurbishment</p>	<p>The Panel noted that the project is seeking greater funding than is available in the Bexhill Rother</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>

<p>Submitted by: East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)</p> <p>CIL requested: £150k</p> <p>Funding pot: Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>The Panel discussed spending and staff cuts at local fire stations and expressed concerns regarding whether refurbishment works were a priority.</p>	
<p>Project: Bexhill Police Station – refurbishment of welfare facilities.</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)</p> <p>CIL requested: £15k</p> <p>Funding pot: Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that this project is seeking less than the minimum funding amount of £30,000.</p> <p>The Panel requested that the Principal CIL Officer contacts Bexhill Town Council regarding this project to inform them that funding is being sought and to discuss whether the town council could allocate CIL towards the project.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Education provision in northeast Bexhill</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex County Council</p> <p>CIL requested: To be confirmed</p> <p>Funding pot: Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that this EOI has been submitted for inclusion on the Priority List, not because it is ready for funding.</p> <p>The Panel were informed that this item is already included on the full Priority List and that it is important for consideration to be given to projects which may require future funding.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: Establishing West Station Community Hub</p> <p>Submitted by: RDC and Rother Voluntary Action (RVA)</p> <p>CIL requested: £50 - £100k</p> <p>Funding pot: Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund & Climate Emergency Bonus Fund</p>	<p>The Panel heard from the Director of Place and Climate Change that the West Station building is in a poor state and is owned by RDC therefore ultimately RDC will have to pay for its maintenance.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the importance of community hubs, citing the Pelham Community Hub, also located in Bexhill. However, there was some discussion about whether such provision meets the definition of strategic infrastructure.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

	<p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that with ongoing development in Bexhill there is justification for ensuring there is capacity in these type of community facilities. The Panel were in agreement on this point, however they requested that should this project apply the applicant will need to clearly demonstrate the need of the project, specifically in relation to development in the area.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the cost of the project. They noted that there are not sufficient funds in the Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund, but a combination of funding from this fund and the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund (CEBF) may be possible. The Panel noted that the project will have to clearly demonstrate its reduction of carbon and environmental benefits to qualify for funding from this pot.</p>	
<p>Project: Rye Fire Station – refurbishment and re-planning</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)</p> <p>CIL requested: £266K</p> <p>Funding pot: Rural Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel discussed spending and staff cuts at local fire stations and expressed concerns regarding whether refurbishment works were a priority.</p> <p>The Panel noted that there are funds available in the Rural Rother Infrastructure Fund but that they feel they need further information on the situation regarding the financial situation of the project.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>
<p>Project: Battle Hill Pedestrian Crossing</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex County Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £150k</p> <p>Funding pot: Rural Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel felt this was an important project and one which clearly meets the definition of infrastructure to support development.</p> <p>The Panel did have some concerns that the project may already be funded via s106 and county funding. They were</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

	<p>supportive of a full funding application coming forward, but they will require the applicant to demonstrate why CIL is being requested and full details of the secured funding.</p>	
<p>Project: Expansion and development of Frimley Centre, St Leonard's, Hastings</p> <p>Submitted by: Bexhill and Hastings Mencap Society</p> <p>CIL requested: £150k</p> <p>Funding pot: None applicable</p>	<p>The Panel were informed by the Principal CIL Officer that the project site is located in St Leonard's which is outside of the district. Strategic CIL should be used to fund infrastructure to support development within the district which it is collected. The Panel heard that Regulation 59 of the CIL regulations allow for CIL to spent outside of the district, in exceptional circumstances, where the provision would support the development of the collection authority area.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the project, but ultimately felt that strategic CIL funding should be spent within the district and therefore this project does not meet the requirements for funding.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED not to invite this project to submit a funding application.</i></p>
<p>Project: School Streets Scheme</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex County Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £100k</p> <p>Funding pot: Climate Emergency Bonus Fund / Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel were informed that there are not sufficient funds available in the Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund, however, the project has also sought funding from the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund (CEBF).</p> <p>The Panel felt that to qualify for CEBF funding the applicant will need to evidence the carbon reducing elements of the project.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the positives of the trial version of this project but questioned the</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

	<p>amount of CIL being requested in relation to the specifics of the trial project. The Panel felt that the application will need to clearly demonstrate value for money.</p>	
<p>Project: Bexhill Cycle and Walking Routes</p> <p>Submitted by: East Sussex County Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £1m</p> <p>Funding pot: Climate Emergency Bonus Fund / Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Panel were informed that there are not sufficient funds available in the Bexhill Rother Infrastructure Fund, however, the project has also sought funding from the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund (CEBF).</p> <p>The CEBF does not contain sufficient funds to fully fund this project, however, it may be able to be used to partially fund aspects of the project.</p> <p>The Panel discussed whether this project has received other funding sources and felt that the project would need to clearly evidence why CIL funding is required. In particular if funding has already been secured from s106 or other sources.</p> <p>In order to qualify for the CEBF the project will also need to demonstrate its carbon reducing aspects.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>
<p>Project: Decarbonising Rye Sports Centre</p> <p>Submitted by: RDC and Freedom Leisure</p> <p>CIL requested: £42k - £400k</p> <p>Funding pot: Climate Emergency Bonus Fund</p>	<p>The Panel discussed the importance of this local provision and the environmental benefits of reducing its carbon usage.</p> <p>The Director of Place and Climate Change informed the Panel that the CIL requested is an estimation and that further funding will be sought from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

<p>Project: Decarbonising Sedlescombe Sports Pavilion</p> <p>Submitted by: Sedlescombe Parish Council</p> <p>CIL requested: £16,500</p> <p>Funding pot: Climate Emergency Bonus Fund</p>	<p>The Panel noted that this project is seeking funding below the minimum amount and therefore were unable to invite an application for this project.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to not invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>
<p>Project: Refurbishment of the Camber Sands Public Conveniences</p> <p>Submitted by: RDC</p> <p>CIL requested: £650 - £750k</p> <p>Funding pot: Climate Emergency Bonus Fund / Rural Rother Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that this item provides a project update on an application which was previously considered by the Panel at their last meeting. At this meeting the Panel requested that a new application be submitted which addressed the Panel's concerns, including clearly setting out how the project will positively respond to the climate emergency.</p> <p>The Panel considered the project update and welcomed the progress which has been made.</p>	<p><i>The Panel RESOLVED to invite a funding application for this project.</i></p>

The projects above which are invited to apply will have an 8-week period to complete their applications. These applications will be assessed by officers in line with the Governance Arrangements & Funding Decision Protocol. The Panel will then reconvene to consider these applications and officer assessments and make decisions on the allocation of funds.

CLIP17 CONTINUATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ROUND

The Principal CIL Officer informed the Panel that in order for the Priority List to be more up to date and comprehensive it is proposed that expressions of interest are able to be submitted year-round.

The Panel heard that the CIL section of the RDC website will be updated to reflect this new process and the EOI form and accompanying guidance will be made available. The website will clearly inform applicants that a submission of an EOI is for inclusion on the Priority List and not for funding at this stage.

The Panel will then be able to review a more detailed an updated Priority List at future meetings.

The Panel RESOLVED to authorise the year-round continuation of the Expression of Interest Round.

The meeting closed at 14:40.