

65 Cabinet/Board/Committee Recommendations

Community Infrastructure Levy: Proposed Spending & Revision of CIL Spending Protocol

Councillor Turner presented a recommendation arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2019 regarding the spending of CIL funds.

The Council received a deputation from Canon Kennar, a copy of which is appended as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

The Cabinet recommendation included within the agenda for the meeting was proposed by Councillor Turner and seconded by Councillor Wilson.

Councillor Branson proposed an amendment that Recommendation 3 (Neighbourhood Portion Funds) include the sum of £21,500 for a church access project to make St Faith's Church, Havant accessible to all.

This amendment was duly seconded by Councillor Guest.

In response to a question, Councillor Turner confirmed that sufficient Neighbourhood Portion Funds were available to fund the £21,500 requested for the St Faith's Church access project.

Councillors had mixed opinions on the amendment, with members of the Cabinet explaining the reasons as to why the request by St Faiths Church had not been recommended to Council. It had been a balanced decision and whilst the Cabinet had every sympathy for improvements to the church, on balance had voted against the application because it did not accord with the agreed protocol for CIL spending.

Following a vote, Council AGREED the amendment, 21 Councillors voting for the amendment, 9 Councillors Voting against the amendment and 2 Councillors abstaining from voting.

In response to comments made by Councillors, Councillor Turner confirmed that she was happy for the CIL Protocol to be subject to scrutiny as part of the updates required referred to in recommendation 4.

Following the discussion it was RESOLVED that:

(1) The Council invest the available 123 List CIL funds as at 31 March 2018 in the capital infrastructure projects outlined in Table A:

Title and bid reference number	Amount	Cumulative amount
Langstone FCERM Scheme (1)	£575,000	£575,000
Hayling FCERM Strategy (2)	£0*	£575,000

Hooks Row - Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Link (16)	£115,000	£690,000
Park Road Corridor Feasibility (3)	£10,000	£700,000
Elmleigh Road - Pedestrian and Cycle Improvement (4)	£269,000	£969,000
Waterlooville Town Centre London Road Shared Cycleway (5)	£16,000	£985,000
Milton Road Roundabout - Accessibility and Safety (6)	£100,000	£1,085,000
Hambledon Road - Provision of Cycle Route (7)	£60,000	£1,145,000
Warblington Interchange - Feasibility (13)	£12,000	£1,157,000

Table A: Current recommended spends and cumulative effect on 123 CIL Pot if all spending options are supported

* Funds are not required for this round of CIL Spending but a future commitment is needed to support the spending of CIL Funds in accordance with Table C outlined below. See also Paragraph 6.3

(2) To commit future 123 Pot funds to the following capital infrastructure projects outlined in Tables B and C and that the balance of the CIL 123 Pot be retained to contribute to this expenditure:

Langstone FCERM Scheme – CIL Pot Building Request 2018-2022					
Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
CIL funding ' <i>Pot Building</i> ' – Inc. 60% Risk	575,000	575,000	700,000	700,000	2,550,000
CIL funding – No Risk	359,375	359,375	437,500	437,500	1,593,750

Table B: Spending commitment requirement for Langstone FCERM Strategy

Hayling Island FCERM Strategy – CIL Pot Building Request 2018-2022					
Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
CIL funding Pot Building request 30% Risk	0	170,700	262,218	100,082	533,000
CIL funding – No Risk	0	131,308	201,706	76,986	410,000

Table C: Spending Commitment for Hayling FCERM Scheme

(3) The Council invest the available Neighbourhood Portion funds as at 31 March 2018 outlined in Table D in the capital infrastructure projects:

Title and bid reference number	Amount Requested	Proposed Spend	Cumulative Amount
HIADS Ltd (Replacement Lobby) (D)	£45K	£22,500	£22,500
Age Concern Kitchen Renovation (F)	£27K	£22,962	£45,462
Bidbury Infants School Lighting Project (H)	£19K	£9,500	£54,962
Hayling Sports Centre Extension Feasibility (I)	£18K	£18,000	£72,962
Acorn Centre Extension (J)	£51K	£19,000	£91,962
Church Access Project: Making St Faith's Accessible to All (C)	£21.5K	£21,500	£113,462

Table D: Current recommended spends and cumulative effect on Neighbourhood Portion if all spending options are supported

- (4) The CIL Protocol be updated to reflect current practice in view of lessons learned; and**
- (5) The Council enter a formal agreement with Network Rail to spend £150K on feasibility only in respect of the Warblington Footbridge CIL Spend as agreed by Council on the 21 February 2018.**

66 Leader's Report

There were no matters the Leader wished to add to his published report.

67 Cabinet Lead Reports

Councillor Bains reported that an Empty Homes Strategy had been drafted and would be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Board in March 2019.

68 Cabinet Leads and Chairmen's Question Time

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Cabinet Leads took questions from Councillors in connection with their published reports.

There were no questions of the Committee Chairmen.

69 Questions Under Standing Order 23

The following questions were received in accordance with Standing Order 23:

1. Councillor Carpenter to Councillor Wilson:

I was very concerned to read in your report that we as a Licensing Authority seen to have no control over drivers / operators in our Borough as at present no national standards exist? In view of these grave concerns can you tell me the steps we can take to stop operators / drivers, licensed outside the Borough but being able to ply for trade within, also would he agree with me this is a Safeguarding issue that needs to be addressed urgently?

Response:

Although national standards for hackney carriage and private hire licensing do not exist, Havant does have a policy statement that imposes rigorous standards that must be met by all drivers, operators and vehicles before they are licensed by this authority. These include medical checks and DBS checks for drivers and mechanical checks for vehicles. I understand that other local authorities have similar policies.

Deputation of Canon Tom Kennar, Rector of St Faith's Church, Havant.

Wednesday 27th February 2019

Mr Mayor and Council-members,

Thank you for this opportunity to make a short deputation to you. I'm here because of a decision made by the Cabinet, which I would like to persuade you to over-turn.

St Faith's applied for funding to the Neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy fund. We are seeking funding to upgrade the facilities of St Faith's Church, to make it more accessible to the whole community, including by the provision of a wheelchair-accessible toilet, and automatic entry doors.

St Faith's has a long history of being the Civic Church of the Borough. We are the home of war memorials of the last 300 years. We are the final resting place of the Lords of Havant and Staunton over many centuries. Every year, we make ourselves available to the Borough Council for its Civic Remembrance Services.

I was therefore very surprised to hear that our bid for 25% of the anticipated costs was rejected by the Cabinet on the grounds that we are a 'religious organisation'. My surprise was all the greater because none of the supporting papers for the Bid process included any such exclusions.

But whilst I might seek to persuade you to over-turn the Cabinet's decision on such a technicality, I want to argue that there is a much more fundamental issue at stake here. Specifically, I want to challenge any policy to blanket-exclude religious organisations from applying for Council funds.

First, in our specific case, I would argue that St Faith's, is both the home of a religious congregation, but it is also a parish church – which has a particular statutory and legal role. A parish church is bound by Law to be available to every citizen of its parish. *Any* citizen of the parish has the right to be married at St Faith's – regardless of their faith - or to have their funeral held there. Furthermore, *any* citizen of the parish – whatever their faith - has the legal right to vote for the annual election of Churchwardens. It might also interest you to know that we are bound – by law – to hold services of public worship in the building, whether we want to or not!

We are, therefore, much more than a 'religious organisation' – we are the provider of a statutory service, bound by the laws of the land, just like the Council. That is a responsibility which we have taken on even more seriously in recent years, with substantial physical improvements to the building, none of which have very much at all to do with us being a place to worship, and everything to do with being the custodians of a very beautiful and locally-important pile of bricks.

Secondly, on a more general note, I want to encourage you not to cut off your collective nose to spite your face. Religious organisations often remind us of our civic duty to one another, and they do much for the common good. Churches, for example, were the first providers of health-care and education in this country – long before the State took up those roles.

These days, religious organisations provide a wide range of public services which Councils are increasingly under-funded to do. Something like two-thirds of all foodbanks are provided by churches. It is not the Council chamber which rough sleepers use to keep warm in on cold winter days. It is the Nave of St Faith's church – open to all, in daylight hours – even during the three hours per week (on average) when a religious service is taking place.

Statutory funds should never be used for proselytization – of course. But St Faith's is not seeking your support to employ an evangelist, or to set up a prayer-group. All we seek is your help in making *the most iconic building in Havant* fully available to every citizen of Havant. Including any user of a wheelchair, or any attendee at future Civic Services, or theatrical and musical performances – be they Mayor or service-personnel – who seek the dignity of easy entry and a simple toilet.

Thank you for giving me the chance to make my case. I shall await your decision with interest and hope.