

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

BACKGROUND

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that Local Authorities can make on new developments in their area. It was introduced by the Government in April 2010 under the CIL Regulations 2010. The CIL is a pre-set charge that can be applied to new developments and collected by each local authority. CIL is intended to be used to help towards funding a range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of new development to ensure that development contributes to the infrastructure needed to mitigate and reduce the impact on the communities in which the new development is taking place. The CIL gives councils greater control and flexibility over where and on what developer contributions are spent, to benefit local communities.

A proportion of CIL income will go directly to the Town Council, where new development is built, to spend as they wish on their local infrastructure needs. Each year, the Town Council will be entitled to up to 15 per cent of the CIL collected from liable developments within their Parish/Town.

This will increase to 25% if and when a Neighbourhood Development Plan is adopted.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

To ensure transparency Abingdon Town Council will publish the following information each financial year:

- Total CIL receipts;
- Total expenditure;
- A summary of what the CIL was spent on;
- Total amount of receipts retained at the end of the reported year from that year and previous years.

DRAFT POLICY

Looking forward for the next decade the CIL money will be used to enable new ventures based around the council's stated priorities of responding to climate change and looking after vulnerable people.

PRIORITIES FOR EXPENDITURE

Priority will be given for infrastructure that is:

- of direct benefit to residents moving into the properties that have generated the CIL funds.
- that promotes and enables healthy lifestyle choices.
- for projects that deliver green transport and public transport.
- That create safe and pleasant routes for cyclists and pedestrians.
- That create safe and pleasant community spaces for recreation, culture and commerce.
- That improve community safety.
- That create habitats for wildlife that is being displaced and in particular replenishes beneficial biodiversity.
- That provides areas for local to Oxfordshire plants particularly species that are endangered.
- That creates facilities for community activities particularly those which actively seek to engage disenfranchised or marginalised people.

Over the past decade there has been significant spending on historic buildings, heritage and culture. This is an important area for the town but there is a need to balance this expenditure with new spending on other areas.

Points of consideration

Abingdon Town Council will favour projects:

- That can be maintained and kept safe, clean and in good order using regular operational procedures and without an undue call on public funds.
- That will save tax payer money in the long term.
- Are designed to be safe and minimise crime.
- That make provision for accessibility including hidden disabilities.
- That take account of the protected characteristics in the 2010 Equality Act.
- That do not exacerbate flood risks and where possible ameliorate it.
- That have a waste management plan.
- That create opportunities for biodiversity and tree planting.

When contributing funds to new buildings or infrastructure, Abingdon Town Council will favour projects:

- That are sustainable.
- That are built to the highest possible standards for energy efficiency.
- That are built from materials that can be replaced or reused.
- That minimise their impact on water usage and disposal.
- That are accessible by public transport and consider the travel to the facility.
- That are either sympathetic to the surroundings or aesthetically pleasing.

When contributing funds to transport Abingdon Town Council will favour projects:

- That encourage walking or cycling.
- That increase public transport provision.
- That improve links from or within the development generating the funds.
- That contribute to safer journeys to schools.
- That create links to strategic sites within the town to promote local economic activity and community links.

When contributing funds to leisure Abingdon Town Council will favour projects:

- That encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Create safe places to play.
- Create areas where people can come together safely without causing a disturbance to others.
- That are accessible to as many people as possible.
- That provide spaces for different age groups to congregate together or with others.

Immediate priorities

The priorities for CIL Money for the civic year 2020-2021 will be encouraging green transport choices as Covid 19 lockdown is eased. Initiatives will include investing in safer routes to school, protecting grass verges and where suitable improving the biodiversity of grass verges.

Priority will be given to projects that improve provision for young people as this is an area the Town Council has not funded as much as other areas in the past.

Adopted 24 February 2021.