

# Community Infrastructure Levy

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## WOLVERCOTE WARD

Currently officers are holding c.£214k (15% of CIL which has been received from development within the Ward).

CIL money can be used for traffic calming, transport infrastructure, Traffic Regulation Orders. The future Papermill community centre – if necessary we could use CIL for internal works, solar panels etc.

CIL could potentially be used for repair of locks, bridges on the Wolvercote stretch of the canal. Advice was to approach it as several projects.

Alternatively, if we set up a Parish Council with a Neighbourhood Plan, this would continue to allow us 25% but our control would be greater because no longer constrained by procurement issues e.g. obtaining 3 quotes. Worth considering.

## How does the CIL process work?

The trigger date for payment of CIL (assessed on the whole development, not just on the housing element) is the commencement of the development. The officers will notify the Neighbourhood Forum when CIL payments are received twice a year – payments received between 1 Apr - 30 Sep will be notified by 28th Oct and payments made between 1st Oct - 31st March will be notified by end of April.

A CIL payment has to be made within 60 days, but where it is over £200k but under £2m, 4 instalments over a year can be made. Where it is over £2m, 4 payments over 4 years.

(A neighbourhood project can often take a long time to get underway, but the CIL money will continue to be held by the officers so Neighbourhood Forum will not lose funding).

## What is the relationship between the levy on the development and the amount paid to the Neighbourhood Forum?

Once the Neighbourhood Plan is made, 25% of CIL from developments within the Neighbourhood Forum Area will be available. Until it's made, only 15% and that's under the control of the Charging Authority i.e. Oxford City.

For example: Wolvercote currently has had 3 instalments from the Paper Mill. The 4th instalment is due in October and so if our plan is made before then (unlikely) the Neighbourhood Forum would get 25% of that 4th instalment, but only 15% of the earlier ones.

The 15% controlled by the city (prior to Neighbourhood Plan being made) could be used in our area but not necessarily. For instance it could be used to make city centre improvements because these would also benefit Wolvercote Residents.

## How is agreement about what projects to bring forward reached?

Where there is no Parish Council and no Neighbourhood Plan yet 'made', the Charging Authority has to notify councillors and seek their agreement for the proposed expenditure.

Where there is a Neighbourhood Plan made, and the officers have a project, they will go to the NF who will consult with its residents. This is not expected to be exhaustive, and could be satisfied by a Neighbourhood Forum stall, or attending a residents' meeting.

Where the Neighbourhood Forum has a made plan, and wants to make a proposal, it will again be directly responsible for consulting with the residents – on a low-key basis – before putting its proposals to the Community Association. There is no particular type/amount of consultation established.

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## How are proposals for spending made?

Before a Neighbourhood Plan is made, residents can still come up with proposals. These would go to the Community Association probably through councillors and the CIL team would then discuss with those councillors.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan is made, the Neighbourhood Forum takes over control from officers and councillors.

It will come up with a proposal, will do the preliminary work i.e. get three quotes, and argue for the best (not necessarily the cheapest). Will put that proposal to the officers. The officers will follow the guidance in the Regulations (not always clear) and if the officers initially view it as within the Regs, the application will continue. If the spend proposed is under c.£10k, then the officers can agree it. If over, they will prepare a report to Committee/CEB.

If the proposal is refused, the Neighbourhood Forum would be asked to come back with further justification for the spend. This would be more persuasive if accompanied by a Petition from Residents.

## Who will ensure that the Neighbourhood Forum takes into account the needs of the whole community, and not just a special interest group?

The officers felt that this was for Councillors, knowing their local community, to keep a watch on.

## What is the officer's view on the statement: "the whole fund should not be used for things that should be done anyway"?

CIL is in fact used for things that should be done anyway from other parts of the City's budget.

The officers work on the basis of the '123 List' for strategic and local objectives (on the City website) but do not treat it as exhaustive. However, some proposals are definitely outside the CIL remit – which is intended for Neighbourhood Forum infrastructure-type projects. So for instance, CIL could fund a new building at Wolvercote Primary, but not additional teachers.

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