

Questions raised during Transformation & Improvement OSC – 13 April 2026

Responses provided by Eddie West, Planned Policy & Strategy Manager

1. **Transparency of CIL balances**

When will fully reconciled and up-to-date CIL balances (Local and Strategic) by Place Plan area be published, and is there a commitment to making these figures routinely accessible to Members and Town and Parish Councils, rather than relying on provisional or ad-hoc information?

CIL figures are generally reconciled as part of the publication of the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement. However, it is recognised there is growing Member and public interest in the status of CIL funds per Place Plan area, and that this information should be accessible on a more regular basis. This would include information on the allocated CIL funds which have been agreed via the Internal Infrastructure Group (IIG) and/or Cabinet and Council decisions, and what funds are unallocated. It is proposed this information will be provided on a quarterly basis in a format to be agreed.

2. **Unallocated CIL: reserve versus genuinely available funding**

Of the CIL currently described as unallocated, what proportion is being actively reserved for identified future infrastructure projects, and what proportion is genuinely uncommitted? How is this distinction recorded and reported to Members to provide assurance about what funding is realistically available?

Aside from CIL funds allocated to a project via the IIG and/or Cabinet and Council approval route, there is currently no mechanism to formally 'reserve' funds for future projects. However, the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement, agreed annually by Cabinet, does provide an 'Infrastructure List' of potential projects where the CIL could be used. These projects generally align with known critical and priority infrastructure needs of settlements as a result of new development and provide an evidential and informed basis to which to make future CIL decisions. In addition, as part of its decision-making process on Expression of Interest, the IIG considers if there is likely to be potentially higher priority schemes coming forward in the coming months, and whether these are potentially likely to require CIL funding to be held back.

3. **Role of Place Plans in allocation decisions**

To what extent do adopted Place Plans materially influence CIL allocation decisions in practice, and can officers provide examples where Place Plan priorities have directly informed successful CIL funding outcomes?

As part of the consideration of all Expressions of Interest to the IIG, the items identification on the relevant Place Plan is a specific criteria. Specifically, the question raised is "***Is the scheme identified in the current Place Plan as an Essential Project?***" This allows the IIG to consider whether the scheme has been identified on the Place Plan and its relative level of priority, i.e. Priority A, Priority B or

Neighbourhood. The Place Plans are therefore a material factor in decision-making on CIL funding.

4. **Parish council guidance and expectations**

What clear guidance is provided to Town and Parish Councils on what CIL can realistically be used for, the key success criteria for Expressions of Interest, and typical timescales from submission to decision, to help manage expectations and support well-prepared bids?

Whilst information has been provided to Parish and Town Councils regarding the CIL EoI process over the past few years, it is recognised that there has been a significant change in both elected members and personnel at many parish and town councils since last May's elections. As such, the work programme of the Place Plan Officers includes the dissemination of further up to date guidance to Parish and Town Councils this summer. This will need to take account of any changes proposed as a result of the Committee's recommendations and Cabinet's agreement.