

Neighbourhood CIL Briefing Note Update

June 2019

Background

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced in 2010 as a more transparent, flexible and fairer way of raising developer contributions. It is a tariff based planning charge levied on new development by local authorities to fund infrastructure to support the development of their area. Solihull MBC introduced CIL in July 2016 and over £2.4million in contributions have been received.

Funding is split into two categories, Strategic and Neighbourhood. Strategic CIL is up to 80% of the contribution received and must be spend on infrastructure projects. Cabinet approval delegated the power to spend the Strategic CIL funding to the Growth and Development Board. The funding is not location specific and can be used for projects across the whole of the borough.

The neighbourhood proportion is made up of 15% of the levy to be passed directly to the Parish or Town Council where the liable development has taken place. Where the Levy is collected in areas without a Parish, monies are held within a Ward allocation, with the responsibility for spending held with the Charging Authority.

The Neighbourhood allocation must be spent on:

- a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure;

or

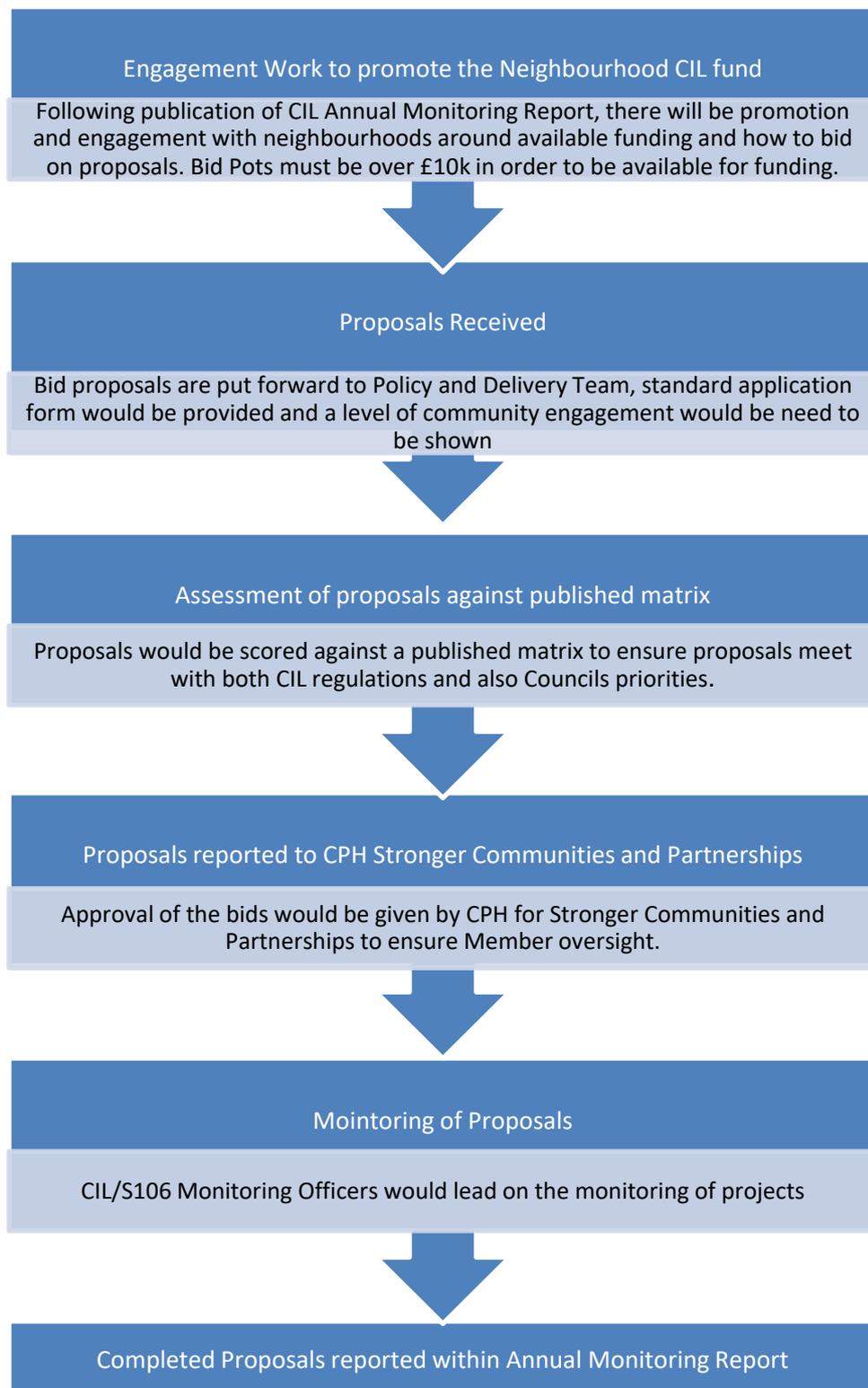
- b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area

Current Positon – available for bidding

Neighbourhood Area	Amount Collected up to 18/19
Dorridge and Hockley Heath	£26,835.15
Knowle	£10,993.85
Olton	£18,484.54
Shirley East	£54,276.60
Shirley South	£24,817.42
Shirley West	£21,276.05
Sillhill	£47,344.90

Governance arrangements for Neighbourhood CIL

A full options appraisal was undertaken, following research with other Charging Authorities to determine existing neighbourhood CIL spending methods. The following shows a breakdown of this proposal:



What type of project would eligible for neighbourhood CIL?

The neighbourhood portion of the levy can be spent on a wider range of projects than the rest of the levy, provided that it meets the requirement to 'support the development of the area'.

The legislation states it can be spent on:

- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area

Infrastructure includes roads and other transport facilities, flood defenses, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces.

Projects that are eligible for Neighbourhood CIL funding will need to show community support, examples of projects funded by other authorities include:

- Community library refurbishment
- Tree Planting and Green infrastructure improvements
- Improvements to a Community music studio
- Improvements to street signs
- Traffic regulation orders
- Renovation of a community kitchen
- Improvement of playground equipment
- Sports equipment purchase

What level of detail is required for a bid?

An application form has been developed which asks for the following key information:

- Project details – summary of the proposed project, what benefits are expected? Who will deliver the project?
- What community support can be demonstrated for the project?
- Timescales and Costs.

Projects will then be assessed against a published scoring matrix which has been approved by Cabinet Member. Proposals will need to show some evidence of a project plan and projects where a high level of details have been specified and agreed, will receive preference. Projects will also receive a score against:

- Benefits of the project
- Public Support
- Aligns to the Council Plan
- Aligns to a neighbourhood plan (where applicable)
- Development of a project plan
- Match funding availability
- Risk

What happens after a bid?

Following the assessment of project bids, all bids will be reported to Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities for approval. The successful bids will be subject to Terms and Conditions and agreement for regular monitoring by the Policy and Delivery Team. It is envisaged funds would be available from October onwards. All successful bids will be reported as part of a cabinet report in December of each year which sets out CIL receipts for the year.