

REPORT ON NCIL (NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRA STRUCTURE LEVY)

Executive Summary

This report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sought to find out why the NCIL monies were not being utilised and to see if simplification and fast tracking of the process would help to expedite this. Recommendations are within the report and the Joint Committee is asked to consider these and advise accordingly.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is requested to:

- (i) Advise on the feasibility of the recommendations within the report
- (ii) Consider the recommendations for improvement of the process and implementation
- (iii) Promote the NCIL process to Councillors

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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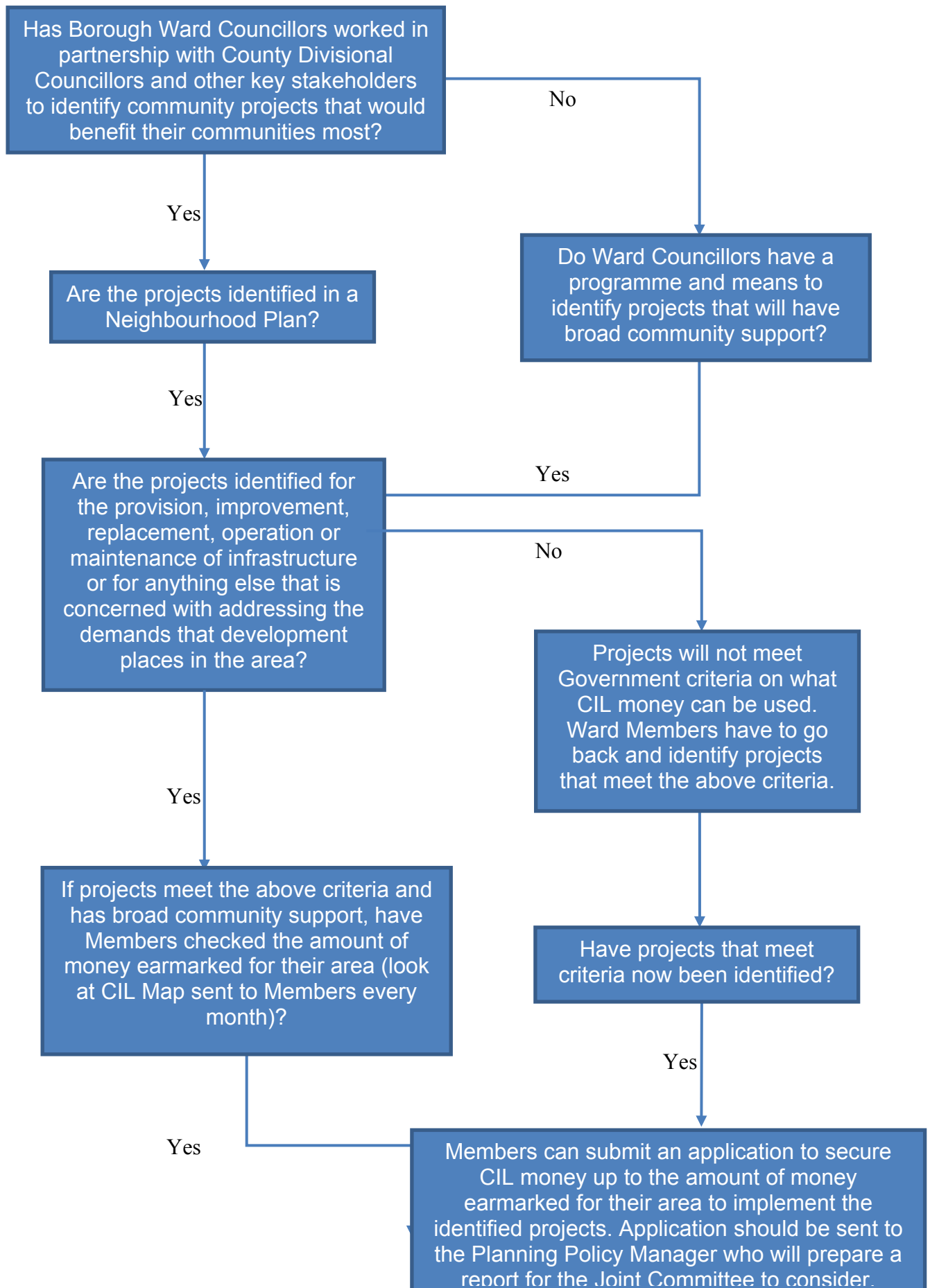
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Report on CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

- 1.0 This item was brought to O&S for discussion following frustration and concern that the local element of the CIL (NCIL- Neighbourhood CIL) money was not being utilised in the wards. Mr Amoako sends out monthly updates on this allocations which have accumulated to each ward for all Councillors. Despite this and the accumulation of £4,543,834 out of an anticipated £8.5 million expected total to date amount to only a few benches that are in the pipeline for the utilisation of this money in the Byfleet ward.
- 1.1 The aim in O&S was for a discussion on the process, to identify and reasons why this money was not being used and to suggest ways of expediting its utilisation.
- 1.2 Mr Amoako presented on the CIL and the process as it exists as determined by the Woking Joint Committee. This paper is therefore written for this Joint committee by way of an update and providing suggestions for increased ease of implementation. It is noted that in its meeting in March 2019 the Joint Committee suggested that it review the scheme post monitoring for the first year. It is perhaps timely that this paper is presented now prior to this review.
- 1.3 Ideas and recommendations that came out of O&S were as follows;
 - 1.3.1 An easy to use flow chart on the process for Councillors and Resident groups to guide them through the process. Mr Amoako offered to take this forward the latest draft of this is attached to this paper, with thanks. This is now to go to the Joint committee chair for agreement.
 - 1.3.2 The flow chart to be circulated to all members to support them through this process, to try to trigger ideas and local applications.
 - 1.3.3 That small scale NCIL projects be accessed in the same way as County project for the Councillors with delegated budgets; not going through the Joint Committee, but with Councillors approving the spending and Officers checking the approval form. If this were taken forwards an upper figure needs to be suggested and agreed. It has been suggested that £10,000 would be a reasonable figure.
 - 1.3.4 Concern raised over the applications for use of this requiring agreement in a meeting of the Joint Committee as the latest committee was cancelled. There are only 3 or 4 such meetings per annum and it was thought that this in itself acted as a barrier and/or a delay in the process. The suggestion was having perhaps a small sub group or a couple of members of the joint committee that could approve NCIL outside of the Joint Committee virtually.
- 1.4 It was pointed out that local councillors need to be proactive in engaging with their resident groups on where the money could be best used and to take this forwards.
- 1.5 The O&S committee would be pleased if the Woking Joint Committee would consider these recommendations at their next meeting and advise accordingly on the process going forwards.

REPORT ENDS

NCIL Funding Process Flowchart

What information does Ward Members need to apply for the CIL money?

- Name of infrastructure project
- A brief description of the project and what it seeks to achieve with estimate of costs
- Evidence of broad community support for the project.

Application will be reported to the next relevant meeting of the Joint Committee. Joint Committee approves application. Money is ready to be released to deliver

Who is responsible for delivering the project?

Ward Members are responsible for ensuring the delivery of the projects. Invoices should be sent to the Planning Policy Manager who will process them for payment. For monitoring, and transparency, all money paid for community projects and the projects the money has been spent on will be reported annually in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.