

# Communities Scrutiny Commission 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020



**Report of: Mike Jackson, Executive Director Resources**

**Title:** Overview of Area Committees 2019

**Ward:** City wide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Keith Houghton, Community Resources Manager

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## **Recommendation:**

Communities Scrutiny Commission consider the results of the 2019 Area Committee decisions for devolved CIL and S106 and give feedback on improvements in the processes for 2019

## **The significant issues in the report are:**

Area Committees approved £3.3m of CIL and S106 projects in 2019.

2019 was the second year of the Area Committee arrangements. Following consultation with Area Committee chairs, councillors, communities, VCSE and Communities Scrutiny Commission a number of improvements were made to the process.



## 1. Summary

**This report gives an overview of the 2019 Area Committee process and the decisions made to allocate devolved s106 and CIL.**

### Context

1. 6 Area Committees were created at the Full Council 20th March 2018. Their purpose is to take decisions over spend of the local element of CIL (15% of the total CIL allocation) and devolved S106 where there is a decision to be made about what and or where the s106 is spent.
2. The committees meet once a year with the option of an additional meeting where required and are supported by Democratic Services.
3. The 2018 decision-making process was delivered in 3 Stages between February – November 2018. 82 outline proposals were submitted, resulting in £1,831,162 of funds being approved by Area Committees to deliver 45 projects, using both local CIL and S106 monies.
4. A review of the 2018 process was started in late September, involving Chairs of the 6 Area Committees, an online survey and Communities Scrutiny Commission.
5. Improvements were made in response to the consultation. The 2019 process took place January – November 2019. 167 outline proposals were submitted – double the 2018 number. 90 projects valuing £3.3m were approved by Area Committees (£2.8million CIL and £0.5million S106.).
6. Key improvements in 2019 included: more time to develop Outline Proposals; an improved BCC webpage setting out the process and improved publicity about the process; 4 briefings were held for community organisations (including one for Black South West Network members); the introduction of a series of ‘surgery’ sessions for councillors to meet with BCC departments to explore feasibility and costings of emerging proposals and a longer time to develop Stage 2 Full Proposals.
7. 4 of the 6 Area Committees chose to over-commit their CIL funds to support Full Proposals they received in 2019. This means some are considering 2020 as a ‘fallow’ year, with no CIL proposals being invited in order to allow their CIL monies to build up into the 2021 AC year.
7. Area Committee Terms of reference and guidance about the process is available on the BCC website. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/local-decision-making>

All CIL allocations and spend are reported in CIL Annual Reports. These are required by the CIL Regulations and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations/community-infrastructure-levy-money>

## 3. Policy

The delivery of the Area Committee CIL & S106 decision-making process enables ward members working with local communities to invest in local infrastructure and deliver key priorities such as;

- Inclusive growth
- Community building /empowering local communities and VCSE organisations

Access to good quality parks and green spaces

Access to opportunity

#### 4. Consultation

##### a) Internal

Not applicable

##### b) External

Not applicable

#### 5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) All Stage 2 Full Proposals are required to produce an Equalities Impact Statement to identify how their project will deliver benefit to relevant equality communities or mitigate negative impacts. These are shared with Area Committees and are considered as part of their deliberations in allocating CIL and S106 to projects
- 5c) All projects in addition were required as a condition of funding to identify any relevant

improvements to access for disabled people they would deliver. In 2019 this has continued to produce projects which are delivering improvements in neighbourhoods around disabled access and which will be monitored on their delivery and reported back to Area Committees

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: 2019 Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) & devolved S106 Area Committee arrangements

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

None