



FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) POLICY

Revised June 2025

Reviewed by Members February 2026

Approved March 2026

Fordingbridge Town Council
Community Infrastructure Levy Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document details the governance arrangements in place at Fordingbridge Town Council for the allocation and spending of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 1.2 Developers pay this levy to the Charging Authority (New Forest District Council) who pass 15% of the receipts to the Town Council, this is known as the Neighbourhood Portion. This needs to be spent on locally determined infrastructure in areas where development takes place. This will rise to 25% should the Council have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan in place. Further background and general requirements may be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 CIL is difficult to forecast and expected CIL receipts may be lower, or delayed further, than first expected due to delays with developments. This policy will reflect the uncertainty of forecasting the final sum handed to the Council as well as attempting to ensure that the Council is not overextended or in debt resulting from CIL expenditure.

2. FRAMEWORK PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 CIL projects must be of long-term benefits and lasting benefit to the people of the parish (Fordingbridge). The Council should consider the long-term housing growth and resulting infrastructure needs, that is within the remit of the Council, when developing plans for the spending of CIL.
- 2.2 In April and October, a CIL report regarding receipts to date, forecasts and expenditure will be presented to Finance & Policy (Full Council). This is to ensure that the Council does not overextend itself on projects.
- 2.3 The Annual Town Assembly has a standing agenda item to report CIL projects.
- 2.5 CIL project proposals/applications may be submitted by councillors, individuals, organisations, and community groups within/associated with the town. Applications not submitted by a councillor would need to demonstrate sound financial management and a proportion of match funding. Members of the public are able to propose areas of need to the Council, via the website www.fordingbridge.gov.uk, or in writing to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall (town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk).
- 2.6 A working group consisting of at least four councillors will be set up to assess larger projects. The working group will meet in March and September each year and will assess the applications made prior to this meeting. The working group will analyse each project and provide a report to the April and October Finance & Policy (Full Council)

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meetings in April and October with their assessment and recommendations for proceeding.

2.7 The CIL project list is expected to cover projects providing, but not be limited to the following benefit categories:

- Crime reduction
- Traffic/road safety
- Community engagement
- Leisure/Sport/Amenity
- Communication
- Public services/Public Safety
- Heritage protection
- Environmental/Climate change

2.8 In general, the Council will use the following **primary criteria** to rank CIL projects against each other:

- **Community Benefit** – how wide an impact the project will have for the town and how many local people/residents might benefit
- **Costs and Funding** – the overall cost of the project and any future expenditure it may generate, such as ongoing maintenance. Projects part-funded by the benefiting organisation or from grant funding may increase the ranking as it means more projects can be financed
- **Deliverability** – how practical is the project and are there likely to be barriers around the planning or legal aspects
- **Environmental Benefits** – does the project offer benefits to the environment of the town and show no negative impact.

2.9 **Secondary criteria** under consideration may include:

- Projects that have a lifespan of more than 15 years
- Projects that demonstrate the benefit will be sustained with revenue expenditure
- Projects that reduce running costs or increase revenue generation
- Projects that mitigate the detrimental effects of development, such as those delivering infrastructure identified as being required in the community
- Projects that connect developments to town services and assets

2.10 The approved projects will be ranked and listed on the CIL Projects List (Appendix 3). This list will be maintained and will be referenced when CIL funding becomes available.

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2.11 Inclusion on the CIL Projects List or meeting some or all of the criteria for CIL ranking, does not commit the Council to fund the project; all Council spending decisions are made by a majority Council vote. The Council will periodically review the CIL Projects List following receipt of CIL funds and may resolve to award funding based on current priority and available funds.

3. DELIVERING PROJECTS

3.1 The Council will monitor all projects awarded CIL funding (whether “in-house” or via an external partner) to ensure that the monies are spent in accordance with the original application and the relevant regulations. A sub-committee/working party may be appointed to oversee major projects in order to enable proper scrutiny and oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

3.2 The Council reserves the right to spend CIL money on expertise, surveys and feasibility studies prior to making a decision on any proposed project. This may include additional staff costs for hours worked on CIL projects and extra costs incurred by the Council for the management of the CIL fund e.g. increased audit costs.

3.3 In managing CIL expenditures, the Council will be guided by the relevant guidelines and procurement procedures.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1 The Council will seek community support for its CIL projects by use of:

- A report to the Town Council Finance & Policy meetings in April and October
- The Annual Town Assembly
- An annual report on CIL posted on the Town Council website
- Social media websites such as Facebook
- Requesting feedback through the Town Council website

5. THE PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS

5.1 An application form containing the following initiates the request for funding:

- Total expected cost of the project, including details of how the project has been costed to ensure best value has been achieved.
- The requested amount of CIL
- Benefits to the local community
- Details of any work already done towards the project

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- Project details, to include: description; project objectives; expected timescales to completion; other sources of funding; what the monies received will be spent on; key stakeholders; current users views and comments (if applicable); future users.
- A risk assessment and further information may be required to support larger applications

5.2 All third-party applications will be required to provide a copy of their organisations previous year's accounts or, for new initiatives, a budget forecast. Please note that failure to provide this financial information may result in the CIL application being delayed or refused.

5.3 All larger applications requiring CIL funding will be considered by a working party appointed by Full Council. Projects will be considered and graded in order of their positive impact on the town and a report with recommendations then presented to Full Council for consideration.

5.4 CIL applications can only be approved at a Finance & Policy meeting. Regard will be given to previous allocations to ensure the widest range of infrastructure is provided/supported. These meetings are generally open to the public; however, the Council may move into private session if commercial sensitivity is required to achieve best value for public money.

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman, Fordingbridge Town Council (**Reviewed: 25th March 2026**)

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APPENDIX 1

BACKGROUND

The **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a charge that Local Authorities can make on new developments in their area. It was introduced by the Government in April 2010 under the CIL Regulations 2010 (amended). The CIL is essentially a pre-set charge that can be applied to new developments and collected by each local authority. CIL is intended to be used to help towards funding a range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of new development, for example road schemes, schools and community facilities.

New Forest District Council began charging CIL from 6/4/2015 on all new development. The CIL will contribute towards providing the necessary infrastructure that the District Council, Town Council and neighbourhood want – for example new or safer road schemes, park improvements or new community facilities. This will also ensure that more development contributes to the infrastructure needed to mitigate and reduce the impact on the communities in which the new development is taking place. The CIL gives councils greater control and flexibility over where and on what developer contributions are spent, to benefit local communities.

A proportion of CIL income will go directly to the Town Council, where new development is built to spend as they wish on their local infrastructure needs. Each year, the Town Council will be entitled to up to 15% of the CIL collected from liable developments within their Parish/Town.

See the following for further details-

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2806/Infrastructure>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy>

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Infrastructure Funding Statements for our district may also be found on these webpages and details schemes highlighted for consideration by New Forest District Council (with their proportion of CIL).

In October 2023 NFDC agreed the mechanism to release additional funds from the CIL funds which they hold, enabling the Town Council to recommend projects up to £75000 for consideration.

WHAT CAN CIL MONIES BE SPENT ON?

CIL monies can be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area. This gives communities freedom and power to spend

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the money on a wide range of things, in consultation with the community: the Town Council must be able to demonstrate that it is using CIL in consultation with residents.

The wider definition means that the neighbourhood funding pot can be spent on things other than infrastructure (as defined in the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations). For example, the pot could be used to fund affordable housing where it would support the development of the area by addressing the demands that development places on the area.

Where community priorities for infrastructure are the same as those of the local authority, for example if they are agreed a new school or road is needed, the community can agree that the local authority will keep all or part of the 15% funding element to ensure maximum funding is enabled.

What is infrastructure?

'Infrastructure' is broadly defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 2008.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/216>

There are typically 3 broad categories of infrastructure: -

- *Physical infrastructure: e.g. highways, transport links, cycleways, energy supply, water, flood alleviation, waste management*
- *Social infrastructure: e.g. education, health, social care, emergency services, art and culture, sports halls, community halls*
- *Green infrastructure: e.g. parks, woodlands, play areas, public open space*

SPENDING CIL

The Town Council should spend their local CIL monies within 5 years of receipt. Where money is not used to support development of the area within five years of receipt, or is used for other purposes, the regulations give charging authorities the power to recover those funds. This is to ensure that money is spent, and spent effectively, to benefit the local community.

MONITORING

The Town Council will produce a publicly available annual report on the use of their share of the CIL receipts. This will include the total receipts for the reported year, the projects CIL has been applied to, and the amount of expenditure on each item. This report will be publicly available and published on the Town Council website (Appendix 2).

RECEIPT OF MONIES

Monies will be transferred to the Town Council by New Forest District Council. Upon receipt, these monies will be 'ringfenced' by the Town Council and only spent on projects already identified in the council's 'infrastructure projects list' (see appendix 2 and 3 for details), subject to Full Council approval and in accordance with the Councils' Financial Regulations.

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APPENDIX 2: MONITORING REPORT

YEAR	Amount Received	Amount Spent	Date Spent	Allocated	Unallocated
2016/17	£1404.00	£1404.00	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2017/18	£4175.04	£4175.04	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2018/19	£2087.84	£2087.84	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2018/19	£56624.98	£2514.00 £54110.98	Sept 19 & 20 To Jun 2021	Security barriers Changing Rooms	Spent
2019/20	£60861.13	£1950.00 £47714.73 £10000.00 £1196.40	May 2021 August 2021 August 2021 Sept 2021	Picnic benches (more) Changing Rooms (total spent £101825.71) Avonway roof Gym Equipment	Spent
2019/20	£73972.85	£2528.70 £5648.00 £62566.46 £3229.69	Sept 2021 Sept 2024 Sep/Dec 2024 Dec 2024	Gym Equipment Bore Holes Circular path Play Equipment	Spent
2019/20	£6567.21	£6567.21	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2020/21	£286.19	£286.19	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2021/22	£1408.98	£1408.98	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2021/22	£1361.69	£1361.69	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2021/22	£2561.88	£2561.88	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2022/23	£1361.69	£1361.69	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2022/23	£25956.10	£25956.10	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2023/24	£27714.99	£27714.99	Dec 2024	Play Equipment	Spent
2023/24	£94383.19	£7677.08 £3855.00 £12000.00 £5250.00 £5269.00 £5276.95 £5000.00 £20000.00	Dec 2024 Jan-Apr25 May-25 May-25 Aug-25 Oct-25 Nov-25 Feb-26	Play Equipment Pitch moving FoFS Grant Muddy Boots Grant Muddy Boots Grant AVS Grant FAN Grant School Grant	£30055.16
2024/25	£141309.36				£141309.36
2025/26	£101883.50				£101883.50
Totals	£603920.62	£330492.62			£273428.00

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APPENDIX 3: CURRENT ALLOCATION OF REMAINING CIL – CIL PROJECT LIST

CIL Allocation	£273428.00
Mens Shed (balance of £10k grant)	£4723.05
Enhance play area/river	£10,000.00
Play equipment	£88,355.43
Bandstand/covered area	£20,000.00
High Street 20mph	£20,000.00
Improve area behind Co-op	£35,000.00
Path from Falconwood to Pealsham	£35,000.00
Replacement Sports Club – seed funding for larger project	£20,000.00
Memorial Garden & Noticeboards project – to install flagpole, memorial plaque display, arched entrance to the gardens and town noticeboards throughout the town	£15,000.00
Church Square enhancement – to support a larger CIL application to NFDC	£20,000.00
Provision of a shelter at Stuckton Road Cemetery	£5349.52
Unallocated Balance	£0.00

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