
TITLE: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING REQUESTS

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 24 January 2022

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[W137]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the allocation of up to £121,733.32 to the Littleport Youth and Community Centre Project and the allocation of up to £192,000 to the St Mary's, Ely, Building Transformation Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Approve the allocation of up to £121,733.32 to the Littleport Youth and Community Centre project
- ii) Approve, subject to the prior submission of a Carbon Impact Assessment, the allocation of up to £192,000 to the St Mary's, Ely, Building Transformation Project

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 1st February 2013. The contributions raised through this levy are used to fund, in whole or in part, the necessary infrastructure to support growth and development in the district.

3.2 In order for infrastructure to benefit from CIL funding, it must be included on the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Infrastructure List. 'District Wide Community Facilities' was added to the list at the Full Council meeting held on 21 October 2021.

Littleport Youth and Community Centre Project

3.3 Littleport Parish Council is requesting a CIL funding contribution of £121,733.32 towards the construction of a new sustainable youth and community facility in Littleport to provide a safe and secure environment for young people, and a location where outreach work and professional support can be delivered at the

heart of the community. The building will also be available for general community use for small groups to get together, adult skills workshops and vocational training.

- 3.4 The Parish Council has secured £545,462 of the total project cost of £667,195.32 and if funding is awarded the project's proposed start date is February 2022.

St Mary's, Ely, Building Transformation Project

- 3.5 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Ely, is requesting a CIL funding contribution of £192,000 towards its Building Transformation Project.

- 3.6 The project will transform the internal layout of the building so that it can be used more fully to serve the needs of the whole community of Ely for all kinds of circumstances, be that for civic, community, or private occasions business, tourism, as well as for the religious and spiritual. Specifically, the changes proposed will:

- Improve accessibility
- Provide more flexible meeting spaces
- Offer enhanced hospitality
- Illuminate medieval heritage
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Provide more comfortable seating

- 3.7 The Church Council has secured £974,000 of the total project cost of £1,166,000 and if funding is awarded the project's proposed start date is January 2022.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Both projects are community facilities and are therefore included on the Council's CIL Infrastructure List and as such are capable of benefiting from CIL funding.
- 4.2 The projects contribute to the delivery of the District Council's Corporate Plan under the 'Social and Community Infrastructure' heading.
- 4.3 There are sufficient funds in the CIL account to meet these requests and as such, for the reasons set out above, Members are recommended to approve the allocations for the Littleport Youth and Community Centre Project and the St Mary's, Ely, Building Transformation Project.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The amount of CIL funding requested is available from CIL receipts.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

Littleport Youth and Community Centre Project

5.4 Directly, the provision of a grant (or not) would have no direct carbon implications on ECDC operations. Hence, overall, the conclusion is that the impact is 'neutral'. That said, indirectly, if the grant was to be awarded, it would subsequently be spent on a construction project. Any construction project can have a mix of negative (eg energy and water consumption, embodied carbon) and positive impacts (eg tree planting), but generally speaking are almost entirely net negative compared with 'do nothing'. Helpfully, Littleport Parish Council (LPC) has provided an equivalent CIA for the construction project, in terms of the impact as constructed, and this highlights a mix of positive and negative carbon aspects. However, it demonstrates a high commitment by LPC for the construction to have careful consideration of carbon implications throughout such as: reduced energy consumption (air source heat pump); location of building (central Littleport, for ease of access on foot etc); water efficiency measures; net gain in trees associated with the development; and the thermal fabric of the building to be in excess of building regulations. Thus, whilst the construction will inevitably result in a net negative carbon release (as do all construction schemes), it is clear that LPC is attempting to mitigate this impact through the design choices it is taking.

St Mary's, Ely, Building Transformation Project

At the time of writing the report the CIA has not been submitted. It is likely that the CIA will be submitted prior to the committee meeting and this will be verbally updated at the meeting.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 None.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
ECDC CIL Infrastructure List – 21 October 2021	Room 12 The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 615451 sally.bonnett@eastcamb.suff.sch.uk

