

City of London

Community Infrastructure Levy

Neighbourhood Fund



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Introduction and legislative background

1. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge levied on new development, introduced by the Planning Act 2008. It is intended to help local authorities deliver the infrastructure needed to support development. The power to set a charge came into effect from April 2010, through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, which have subsequently been amended.
2. The City of London Corporation implemented a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the City of London from 1 July 2014.
3. Further information on the City CIL is available on the City Corporation's website at: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/Pages/Community-Infrastructure-Levy.aspx>

CIL Neighbourhood Fund Requirements

4. Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations require that 15% of CIL receipts should be reserved to enable the delivery of neighbourhood priorities. These receipts should be passed directly to existing parish and town councils where development has taken place. Where a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order has been made 25% of CIL receipts from development in the plan area is reserved for the delivery of neighbourhood priorities.
5. Where there is no existing parish, town or community council, neighbourhood plan or development order, then the local authority will retain neighbourhood CIL funds, but should engage with communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood CIL.
6. Within the City of London, there are no existing parish, town or community councils and no adopted neighbourhood plans or neighbourhood development orders. The City Corporation therefore retains the CIL Neighbourhood Fund and should seek community views on how this Fund should be used. In exercising this role, the City Corporation has considered whether specific communities or

neighbourhoods should be identified. However, given that the City is little over one square mile in area, the City Corporation considers that it should be regarded as a single neighbourhood for the purposes of collection and spending of CIL Neighbourhood Funds.

What can CIL Neighbourhood Funds be used for?

7. CIL Regulation 59(F) requires that the Neighbourhood Fund be used to support the development of the neighbourhood. The scope of projects that can be funded by the Neighbourhood Fund is wider than that for general CIL funds and comprises:
 - 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.
8. This definition is deliberately wide and allows the City Corporation to work collaboratively with local communities to determine priorities and how the Fund should be used.

Scale of the City CIL Neighbourhood Fund

9. The City of London CIL was implemented from 1 July 2014.
10. At July 2022, the total amount of CIL monies available through the CIL Neighbourhood Fund was £5.8 million.

Community Priorities

11. The City Corporation has adopted a Regulation 123 List which identifies the types of infrastructure that it will consider funding using the Community Infrastructure Levy. This Regulation 123 List is kept under review and any proposals for change will be subject to public consultation. The current Regulation 123 List is available on the City Corporation's website at:
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/Pages/Community-Infrastructure-Levy.aspx> . The Regulation 123 List is used principally to guide the use of CIL monies outside of the Neighbourhood Fund.
12. In considering how to use the CIL Neighbourhood Fund, Planning Practice Guidance states that where there is no parish, town or community

council, charging authorities should engage with communities where development has taken place on their priorities for funding.

13. The City Corporation consulted on priorities for the use of the City's CIL Neighbourhood Fund during May 2022. This consultation revealed support for the Fund to be used primarily to deliver infrastructure and services that meet local community identified needs.

14. The City's Neighbourhood Fund has been established to be applied to funding applications from local communities and community groups and to deliver improvements in infrastructure which have the potential to deliver benefit to City residents, workers and visitors. The Fund could be used for:

- Smaller scale projects, deliverable for under £50,000, in response to locally identified needs.
- Larger projects of over £50,000 and normally less than £500,000.

Community Definition

15. The City of London has a resident population of approximately 8,000 and a daily working population of over 500,000 occupying nearly 9 million square metres of office floorspace. The City Corporation's Statement of Community Involvement already recognises that it is not appropriate to regard the 'local community' as just the resident community. For the purposes of the CIL Neighbourhood Fund, 'community' is defined as local residents, City workers and the owners and occupiers of City buildings.

Governance Process

16. The City CIL Neighbourhood Fund will be allocated following consideration of valid applications (i.e. those that meet the adopted assessment criteria for the Neighbourhood Fund) from communities within the City of London or close to the City of London where projects support the development of the City. The determination of these applications will rest with the City Corporation. The City Corporation will publish details of funded applications on the City Corporation's website.

17. The City Corporation will prepare an annual report for the CIL Neighbourhood Fund as a separate item within the wider annual CIL and s106 monitoring report. The Neighbourhood Fund monitoring will include details of:

- Total CIL Neighbourhood Fund receipts for the reporting year;
 - Total CIL Neighbourhood Fund expenditure for the reporting year;
 - Details of CIL Neighbourhood Fund expenditure for the reporting year, including the amount spent on each individual project;
 - Total CIL Neighbourhood Fund monies remaining.
18. City Communities will be consulted on an annual basis on community priorities for the City CIL Neighbourhood Fund. A full review of the Neighbourhood Fund, including priorities and governance, will be undertaken at least every 5 years.

Neighbourhood Fund Application Process

19. The application process will be managed by the City Corporation's Central Grants Unit. Information about the Neighbourhood Fund and how to apply will be posted on the City Corporation's website at: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/Pages/Community-Infrastructure-Levy.aspx>
20. Fund applications can be made at any time and should be submitted via an online application form which will be posted on the City Corporation's website.

Organisations eligible to bid for funding

21. Neighbourhood Fund applications will be accepted from the following types of organisation:
- Constituted voluntary organisations and resident associations
 - Constituted business organisations and associations
 - Registered charities
 - Registered community interest companies
 - Charitable companies (incorporated as not for profit)
 - Registered charitable incorporated organisations
 - Exempt or excepted charities
 - Registered charitable industrial and provident society or charitable cooperative.

22. Applications should be from City-based organisations or should demonstrate City-based support. Applications cannot be accepted from individuals. Individuals who wish to apply for funding should do so through a City-based constituted organisation or group falling into the above definition. Applications will not be accepted from political parties or organisations involved in political lobbying.
23. Applications from City Corporation service departments will be accepted where they:
 - Have the support of a City-based community group, or
 - Can demonstrate that delivery will meet community priorities, either through consultation with communities, or through an adopted City Corporation strategy which can demonstrate community support.
24. Applications for infrastructure funding to mitigate the direct impacts of development will not be accepted. Such mitigation should be delivered as part of the development process and funded through s106 Planning Obligations.

Assistance with Applications

25. The Central Grants Unit can provide assistance to applicants with the completion of application forms. Contact details are available on the City Corporation's website. The Central Grants Unit cannot provide assistance with project management or delivery of schemes funded through the Neighbourhood Fund.

Assessment Criteria

26. Applications should demonstrate that funding will be used to meet the Regulatory requirements for CIL funding set out in Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations, namely to support the development of the area by:
 - 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.
27. Infrastructure improvements funded through the Neighbourhood Fund should deliver improvements necessary to support development of the City. Normally, such funding will deliver new infrastructure, but funding will also be available to meet reasonable on-going maintenance costs.

Applications should, therefore, identify and include an allowance for future maintenance of any infrastructure to be provided.

28. CIL Regulations allow greater flexibility in the use of the Neighbourhood Fund compared with other CIL expenditure. Neighbourhood Funds may therefore be used to fund revenue expenditure. To avoid creating long term commitments on the Neighbourhood Fund, any requests for revenue funding should be clearly justified, showing demonstrable community benefit, and time limited to a maximum of 5 years.
29. In recognition of the value in providing continuous and consistent support to City communities through work funded via the CIL Neighbourhood Fund, organisations will be permitted to reapply for funding at the end of a grant. Any organisation seeking to reapply to the CILNF will have to demonstrate a successful track record of delivering positive outcomes for City communities in their previously funded work. The CIL Neighbourhood Fund will need to balance a portfolio of existing organisations and new applicants to the CIL Neighbourhood Fund to ensure that the funds available are not concentrated in a small number of returning organisations.
30. For larger projects of over £50,000, applications should also consider whether the project meets the priorities identified in the City Corporation's Regulation 123 List and projects identified in City Corporation strategies that have been subject to public consultation. Funding decisions will not be made solely on the basis of compliance, or otherwise, with the Regulation 123 List.
31. Applications should include evidence of the feasibility, deliverability and sustainability of the project.
32. Where possible, the application should be supported by a delivery plan or business plan, which sets out the timescales for delivery, that any necessary consents have been obtained and the mechanisms in place to ensure that the funds are used appropriately.
33. Projects should be delivered within a 12 month period from the grant of funding unless an alternative timescale has been agreed. If delivery over a longer timescale is anticipated, this should be set out clearly in the application and a justification provided for the extended timescale. The City Corporation will monitor delivery of projects, including taking action to ensure that projects are delivered on time, or seek to recover funds if projects do not proceed within agreed parameters.

34. Applications for funding in excess of £50,000 should demonstrate how the project will deliver value for money, including through the identification of any contributory or match funding. This can include contributions in time or expertise, for example, where a local community delivers infrastructure improvements themselves, but is not necessary for a successful bid.
35. Applications to fund projects which are already in receipt of other City CIL funding, or s106, s278 funding for site specific mitigation will not normally be accepted.
36. Developers may wish to support an application from a constituted City-based organisation or group, as set out above, where the proposed infrastructure cannot be delivered through other means.

Value of Bids

37. The minimum value for applications for infrastructure funding is £1,000.
38. Individual applications should normally not exceed £500,000. Information on the available funds will be published on the City Corporation's website on a quarterly basis to inform applications.
39. Applications in excess of £500,000 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, where there is demonstrable benefit to more than one of the City's communities and where the proposal aligns with other City Corporation ambitions, set out in published strategies.

Awards Process

40. The determination of applications will be made through a combination of officer delegation and Committee approval, depending on the financial value of the application. The adopted thresholds accord with those used by the City Bridge Trust in its consideration of grant applications.
41. Funding applications for under £25,000 will be determined by City Corporation officers under delegated authority. Decisions should normally be made within 12 weeks of the receipt of a valid application.
42. Applications for between £25,000 and £50,000 will be determined by a panel of City Corporation officers under delegated authority and in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee. Decisions should normally be made within 16 weeks of the receipt of a valid application.

43. Decisions taken under delegated authority will be reported to the Resource Allocations Sub-Committee.
44. Applications for over £50,000 will be considered by the City Corporation's Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, normally on a quarterly basis. Applications will be considered as items in the public part of the meeting agenda.