

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For Decision	Dated: 27/01/2026
Subject: Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund – Applications for Decision	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes	Diverse Engaged Community; Vibrant Thriving Destination; Flourishing Public Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	CIL Neighbourhood Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Simon Latham, Interim Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation
Report author:	Jack Joslin, Head of Central Funding and Charity Management

Summary

The City Corporation adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in 2014. National CIL Regulations require that 15% of CIL receipts be reserved for neighbourhood funding. Management of the City of London's Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) process is aligned with the City's existing grant allocation process through the Central Funding & Charity Management Team (CFCMT). Members are asked to make decisions on CILNF Officer Panel recommendations from their meeting in December 2025, and to note the grants approved under delegated authority from July 2025.

Recommendations

Members are recommended:

1. To note the current position of the CILNF with respect to funds available.
2. To approve the grant recommended at the meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in December 2025 (**Appendix 3**): £212,365 (£40,000; £41,200; £42,436; £43,709; £45,020) across 5 years to Ascension Trust to support Bridge Watch – training volunteers to patrol and provide support to those who may be seeking to end their life on City of London Bridges.
3. To note the schedule of grants approved by the CILNF Officer Panel under delegated authority since July 2025 (**Appendix 4**).

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in 2014. National CIL Regulations require that 15% of CIL receipts be reserved for neighbourhood funding. Local authorities are required to engage with communities on how this neighbourhood funding should be used to support development of the area, and are required to report annually on the collection and use of CIL funds, identifying separately the amount of funds allocated to neighbourhood funding. The Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) application process is managed by the Central Funding & Charity Management Team (CFCMT). Community priorities for the CILNF were established in January 2024 through extensive public consultation. Funded applications must meet at least one of the Community Priorities, be delivered within the City of London and benefit City of London residents and/or City of London workers.
2. An Officer Panel drawing expertise from Senior Officers from across City of London services assess applications and provide support to Committee in the consideration of larger applications. The administrative cost incurred in operating the CILNF is recoverable from the 5% of City of London CIL funds allowed to cover such costs in the Regulations.
3. The City of London's CILNF Funding Policy is set out at **Appendix 1**. Since the launch of the City of London's CILNF in September 2020, Members and Officers have worked together to commit £10,672,924 in funding to City communities.

Financial year	Funds committed as at 9.12.25
2020/21	£484,231
2021/22	£1,906,663
2022/23	£2,982,964
2023/24	£1,606,600
2024/25	£2,766,995
2025/26	£925,471

4. The balance of the General CILNF and Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Funds as at 9 December 2025 was £X9.01m with a grant for £212,365 being presented to this Sub-Committee for decision. Since the launch of the new Community Priorities, the CFCMT has been actively undertaking outreach work to support applications from grassroot and community organisations seeking to deliver services in the City of London. Members should note that this has led to a significant increase in smaller applications to the fund.

Current Position

5. Management of the City of London's CILNF process is aligned with the City's existing grant allocation process, through the CFCMT. Applications to the CILNF undergo a process of due diligence and assessment by Funding Managers with detailed financial assessment undertaken by the Charity Finance Team before sign off by the Funding Director. (Details of the assessment process and Funding Officer Panel are provided at **Appendix 2**). Eligible applications are then

presented to the CILNF Officer Panel for recommendation or delegated decision. The CILNF Officer Panel comprises of 11 Senior Officers from across the spectrum of CoL Services (Community & Children's Services, Libraries, Environment, Planning, Green Spaces, Town Clerk's, Chamberlain's, EEDI, Culture) and is chaired by the Assistant Director - Planning. At the Officer Panel consideration is given to each proposal's outputs and outcomes, value for money in terms of social, environmental as well as financial value and equality considerations.

6. As agreed at your Sub-Committee on 22 February 2024, CILNF Officer Panel was given delegated authority to approve applications for up to £100,000 with decisions for all applications above £100,000 to be undertaken by this Sub-Committee. This delegation was agreed to keep CFCMT decision-making in line with the increased delegations across CoLC. Importantly, it also allows for the quick (12 week) turnaround of smaller grants to community and grassroots organisations to increase the diversity of applicants to the CILNF programme, with the decision-making for grants for over £100,000 taking up to 6 months.
7. At its meetings in December 2025, the CILNF Officer Panel considered an application from the Ascension Trust to support the costs of its Bridge Watch programme over a five-year period. Bridge Watch delivers support services on City of London Bridges for individuals in distress. This application has been endorsed by City of London Police and the Safer City Partnership. City Bridge Foundation have provided seed funding (which is still live) to Bridge Watch and supports the organisation operationally at Tower Bridge. At the Panel Officers discussed the importance of this work and how the application had articulated the benefit this project would have to City of London communities. A full assessment report is available at **Appendix 3**.
8. Funding is recommended as follows: £212,365 (£40,000; £41,200; £42,436; £43,709; £45,020) across 5 years to support Bridge Watch – training volunteers to patrol and provide support to those who may be seeking to end their life on COL Bridges.
9. A schedule of the grant decisions that were made under delegated authority by the CILNF Officer Panel since July 2025 is available in **Appendix 4** for information.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. **Strategic Plan Implications:** The CILNF can resource community-led infrastructure improvements and activity across the City and contributes towards meeting the four aims of the Corporate Plan 2024-29 - Diverse Engaged Communities, Providing Excellent Services, Vibrant Thriving Destination and Flourishing Public Spaces.
11. **Financial Implications:** The CILNF makes use of that proportion of City CIL monies which are required by statute to be used to assist in the delivery of new infrastructure to meet community needs (15% of CIL funds). The costs of management of the grant application process is met through the 5% of CIL funds set aside by statute to cover CIL administration.
12. **Resource Implications:** None
13. **Legal Implications:** None
14. **Risk Implications:** None

15. **Equalities implications:** The CIL Neighbourhood Fund and revised CILNF Policy have been subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment. The Equalities Impact Assessment has concluded that there are no adverse impacts arising for equality groups and social mobility. The CFCMT has developed an Equalities Action Plan outlining the actions it will take to improve the positive equalities impact of the CILNF.

16. **Climate implications:** None

17. **Security Implications:** The CILNF fulfils a statutory requirement for the spending of CIL. There are no direct security implications, though future funded projects may bring security benefits.

Conclusion

18. Community Infrastructure Levy legislation requires local authorities to reserve between 15% and 25% of CIL receipts for neighbourhood funding. The CILNF application process is managed by the City Corporation's CFCMT, with the CILNF Officer Panel assessing applications and providing support to Committee in the consideration of larger applications. Members are asked to approve the grant award recommended and note the delegated decisions of the CILNF Officer Panel over the last six months.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – [CIL Neighbourhood Fund Policy](#)
- Appendix 2 – [Summary of CILNF grant assessment process & Officer Panel membership](#)
- Appendix 3 – CILNF Assessment Pack Ascension Trust
- Appendix 4 – CILNF Applications Approved and Rejected under Delegated Authority June to December 2025

Background Papers

Report to Policy & Resources Committee 02/05/2019: City of London Community Infrastructure Levy – Approval of Neighbourhood Fund

Report to Policy & Resources Committee 22/02/2024: Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund – Approval of updated Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund Policy

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