

Briefing Note No. 26-20

Locally Identified Infrastructure Projects Fund

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This note explains the Locally Identified Infrastructure Projects Fund and how the application and decision process will work. Further information will be published on the [Area Board webpage](#) when the funding round opens.

A new funding opportunity for Wiltshire communities

On 15 July 2026, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet approved up to £250,000 each year for three years to support Locally Identified Infrastructure Projects (LIIPs). This provides a total allocation of up to £750,000 from 2026/27 to 2028/29.

The funding comes from the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy, known as Strategic CIL. It will support local infrastructure projects that help address needs arising from growth and development.

The annual allocation is flexible rather than a commitment to spend the full amount. Funding will depend on suitable projects coming forward that meet the approved Strategic CIL criteria.

What is the LIIPs Fund?

The LIIPs Fund supports sufficiently developed and deliverable capital infrastructure projects that help accommodate growth and address the effects of development.

It is not a general grant fund. It complements, rather than replaces, existing funding sources such as:

- Neighbourhood CIL
- Section 106 funding
- Area Board capital funding
- Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups (including Substantive Bids)
- Active Travel funding through the new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) funding programme
- External grants and other funding programmes

LIIPs funding bids are expected to be around £50,000 to £75,000 with at least the equivalent match funding coming from town and parish council sources, which may include town or parish council funding, neighbourhood CIL, grants, fundraising and partner contributions. This will help the annual

allocation support a reasonable spread of projects and ensure they are of the type that are likely to qualify for Strategic CIL funding.

What could the fund support?

Projects must provide or improve infrastructure and demonstrate a clear relationship to growth or development impacts.

Projects that may potentially be considered include:

- Community hall improvements or extensions serving needs arising from growth
- Sports pavilions and changing facilities
- Recreation and sports infrastructure
- Green infrastructure
- Flood resilience infrastructure
- Accessibility improvements to community infrastructure
- Public realm improvements
- Other capital community infrastructure supported by a clear Strategic CIL case

Walking, wheeling, cycling and local highway projects may be more appropriately considered through existing transport programmes, including the new LCWIP capital funding programme (details to follow).

The fund is unlikely to support:

- Events and activities
- Staffing costs
- Ongoing revenue expenditure
- Routine maintenance without a wider infrastructure justification
- General repairs unrelated to qualifying growth-related infrastructure
- Projects without a clear link to growth or development impacts
- Insufficiently developed proposals
- Projects that could reasonably be funded through another route

Community benefit is relevant, but the project needs to meet the approved Strategic CIL criteria. Projects may come forward from rural or urban areas, but all proposals must demonstrate a clear relationship to growth or development impacts in the area.

The role of town and parish councils

Town and parish councils will play the main role in bringing projects forward.

Town and parish councils will act as the accountable body for the funding, ensuring it is spent in accordance with the funding agreement with the council. They will also be responsible for delivery of the agreed project, although delivery may be undertaken in partnership with a third party, such as a community group or other organisation.

Town and parish councils will be responsible for:

- Contacting the Engagement and Partnerships Team to discuss potential projects
- Submitting Expressions of Interest and full applications
- Providing evidence of need, costs, funding and deliverability
- Exploring neighbourhood CIL and other funding sources

- Explaining who will deliver, own and maintain the infrastructure
- Delivering approved projects, or working with a partner organisation, and meeting the funding and reporting requirements.

Projects must be sufficiently developed to provide meaningful information about their scope, location, costs, funding gap, delivery arrangements and relationship to growth.

The role of Area Boards

Area Boards will provide local democratic input into the process.

Area Boards will:

- Consider assessed projects within their community areas
- Review the officer assessment and supporting information
- Take account of local priorities and community support
- Decide whether to endorse projects for collective review

Area Boards will not:

- Determine Strategic CIL eligibility
- Allocate Strategic CIL directly
- Make the final funding decision

Area Board endorsement does not guarantee that a project will receive funding.

How the process will work

The process starts with an initial discussion and Expression of Interest. Invited applicants will then submit a full application for Strategic CIL assessment and Area Board consideration. Endorsed projects will be reviewed collectively before the Cabinet Member makes the formal funding decision. The accompanying workflow and timetable diagram provides further information on each phase.

Stage	Indicative timing
Early engagement and Expressions of Interest	October to November 2026
Full applications developed and submitted	November 2026 to early January 2027
Strategic CIL assessment	January 2027
Area Board consideration and endorsement	February to March 2027
Collective review and funding recommendations	April 2027
Delegated Cabinet Member decision	May 2027
Funding agreements, delivery and monitoring	Following approval

The precise full application deadline will be published when the funding round opens.

The first funding round will open during 2026/27, with assessment and the funding decision continuing into 2027/28.

Key messages

- Up to £750,000 of Strategic CIL funding has been allocated to the programme over three years.

- Up to £250,000 will be available through each annual funding round, subject to suitable projects coming forward.
- Town and parish councils will bring projects forward through an Expression of Interest and full application process.
- Applicants must demonstrate a genuine funding gap and explore neighbourhood CIL and other funding sources that they can provide.
- Area Boards will provide local knowledge and input through an examination and endorsement process.
- All endorsed projects will be considered collectively before recommendations are made.
- Expressions of Interest and Area Board endorsement are important but do not guarantee funding.
- The formal funding decision will be made through an individual Cabinet Member decision in accordance with council procedures.
- The first funding round is expected to run from October 2026 to May 2027.

Further information

To discuss a potential project, town and parish councils should contact the Engagement and Partnerships Team at areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Further guidance and supporting documents will be available through the [Area Board webpage](#) when the funding round opens.

Locally Identified Infrastructure Projects

Workflow and Timetable

Period	Process Phase	Workflow Stages
Months 1–2	 Early engagement and eligibility	Town and parish councils discuss projects with the Engagement and Partnerships Team and submit an Expression of Interest. The information is reviewed before applicants are advised whether to proceed to a full application.
Months 2–4	 Full application	Invited town and parish councils develop and submit full applications by the published deadline.
Month 4	 Strategic CIL assessment	Strategic Planning assesses completed applications against the approved Strategic CIL criteria.
Months 5–6	 Area Board consideration and endorsement	Area Boards consider assessed projects, local priorities and community support before deciding whether to endorse them.
Month 7	 Collective review	All Area Board-endorsed projects are reviewed collectively to identify recommendations for funding.
Month 8	 Funding decision	Cabinet Member considers the recommendations and makes the formal funding decision in accordance with the council's constitution.
Following approval	 Delivery and monitoring	Funding agreements are completed. Approved projects are then delivered, monitored and reported on.

First funding round: Month 1 is October 2026 and Month 8 is May 2027.



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