

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the proposals for neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (CIL).	
Contributor	Sustainable Development Select Committee	
Class	Part 1 (open)	16 January 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions about proposals for spending neighbourhood community infrastructure levy funds.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the Committee's comments as set out in this report and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to provide a response.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1 On Wednesday 12 December, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered an officer report on proposals for neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (CIL).
- 3.2 The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- The Committee disagrees with the tight timescale that has been developed for the proposals. It believes that more time should be taken to assess the options and to develop robust proposals.
 - The Committee believes that the process for allocating neighbourhood CIL should be as open, transparent and as fair as possible. However, it recognises that it is not possible to develop a process that will satisfy everyone.
 - The Committee believes that the proposals should give greater recognition to the level of quantifiable change (such as a measurable increase in population) that occurs as a result of new development.
 - The Committee believes that the proposals should give consideration to levels of demonstrable need across the whole borough. The Committee recognises that the primary purpose of CIL is to mitigate the impact of large scale development but it is also conscious that there are areas of borough, without major projects being planned, that have significant need for infrastructure spending.
 - The Committee recommends that consideration be given to an assessment of deprivation that is more specific than the indices of multiple deprivation.
 - The Committee recommends that a baseline sum of funding should be provided for all wards (and that consideration should be given to reducing the all ward pot or increasing the overall level of neighbourhood CIL to fund this).
 - The Committee is concerned about the use of wards to allocate funding. It recommends that consideration should be given to other options for demarcating

the areas in which funding can be used. This might include allocating spending to projects within a set distance from a development, rather than within a single ward. The Committee also noted the likely future changes in ward boundaries and it requested that the potential implications of these changes be considered by officers.

- The Committee recommends that further clarity be provided about the proposed role of councillors in the allocation of funding.
- The Committee requests that further information be made available about the types of projects that can be funded using neighbourhood CIL.
- The Committee notes the importance of minority communities, communities of interest and groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). The Committee asks that the needs of all communities and groups be given consideration in the future development of proposals.
- The Committee recommends that thought should be given to the options for engaging as many residents as possible in decisions about neighbourhood CIL allocation. This might include the use of digital platforms, Commonplace and options for holding votes.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Further implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Sustainable Development Select Committee agenda, 12 December 2018:

<https://tinyurl.com/SDSC121218>

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)