



To all Elected Members and Town and Parish
Councils

Via email

Shropshire Council
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Date: 19 September 2019

Dear Councillor

Update re: the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

As you are aware, Shropshire Council recently ran a call for CIL Local Expressions of Interest (Eols). The purpose of CIL is to help fund the infrastructure which is required to support new development, in line with the UK Government regulations. The most recent call for Eols was issued in December 2018, and the closing date was 22 March 2019. Of the 42 Eols received by the closing date, 19 were approved to go through to the Technical Check stage, which confirms the funding allocation.

Further consideration is currently being given to the process of Eols, which we appreciate is time consuming for organisations submitting projects for consideration, as well as resource intensive for Shropshire Council. In the meantime, we can confirm that Shropshire Council will be accepting further Eols from organisations which have projects that they wish to progress. We have therefore attached an updated Eol form, along with an updated guidance document. Please ensure that you take note of the contents of the guidance document before completing the Eol form. If you have any questions about the guidance document, or about the Eol form, please contact your local Place Plan Officer in the first instance.

Organisations which submitted unsuccessful Eols during the last round are able to resubmit their projects for reconsideration. However, this should only be considered as an option if the applicant can provide additional information that further supports and evidences the eligibility of and need for the project. If you have any queries reading this, please contact your local Place Plan Officer.

In addition, please be aware that we are currently developing a specific funding framework which will potentially support projects that have a highway, road safety, or traffic management focus. This includes a number of projects that were submitted as Eols in the last round, covering issues such as pavements, street lights, speed restrictions, junction improvements, parking, access, and other highways infrastructure. A number of these were not supported as they did not meet the eligibility tests applied by Shropshire Council. We will be in touch with all Local Elected Members and Town and Parish Councils regarding this as we further develop our proposals.

To recap, the process for assessment of any submitted Eols is as follows:

- All Eols are considered by a working group of council officers. This group includes officers from across the Council's various infrastructure delivery teams, including Planning Policy, Highways, Education, Broadband / ICT, Outdoor Partnerships, Property / Estates, Development Management, and Economic Growth. In addition, Finance team members also input to discussions, and advice around eligibility of Eols is taken from colleagues in Legal.
- The recommendations made by this officer working group are then put to an informal working group of Elected Members, which includes the Cabinet member with responsibility for CIL. These Elected Members challenge officer decisions, and can request that additional information be taken into account regarding an Eol.
- Once agreement is reached regarding the Eols, the final recommendations are considered and signed off by the officer with Delegated Authority. This is usually the Assistant Director for Economic Growth although, where no clear recommendation has been arrived at, the Executive Director for Place may make the final decision.
- At this point, a Decision Report will be issued to the applicant, outlining the reasons for the decision reached. Successful applicants will then be asked to complete a Technical Check form, which we will provide you with at the appropriate time.

Please note that Shropshire Council is the accountable body for CIL funds. As such, UK government regulations stipulate that the Council must think strategically about its use of the levy to ensure that key infrastructure priorities are delivered to facilitate growth and the economic benefit of the wider area. The regulations clearly state that it is up to the charging authority to make decisions regarding the infrastructure required.

In the meantime, Town and Parish Councils do have their Neighbourhood Funds which they can spend on infrastructure projects within their area, and we have previously issued information about the Fund to clarify how this works and what the money can be spent on.

Finally, thank you to all of you who have contributed to the ongoing refresh of the Place Plans. These documents are almost completed, and will shortly be published on Shropshire Council's website. We have also streamlined and updated the Place Plan web pages and, when the new web pages are launched, you will find the relevant content much easier to find.

We hope you find this update useful. Shropshire Council's Place Plan Officers are available to discuss projects with Town and Parish Councils.

G. Davies