

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY SPEND ALLOCATION

- 4.1 The Panel discussed the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spend Allocation at its meeting on 3rd February 2021.
- 4.2 In relation to the Buckden to Huntingdon Safe Cycling and Walking Route, Members commented that it was a beneficial scheme, however the percentage of funding to be obtained from CIL was higher than desirable. The Panel discussed if the proportion of funds obtained from CIL should not exceed 50% of the project cost. It was considered such a restriction might not be beneficial for all case consideration. It was suggested the County Council might make a greater contribution to the scheme.
- 4.3 Whilst discussing the Cricket Pavilion, King George V Playing Field scheme, Members commented that they were surprised that the scheme met the criteria. On a general point, it is suggested that the criteria used to determine whether projects are desirable or essential should be clarified because it is likely there will be considerable demand for CIL funds in the future. Members understood that the critical, essential and desirable definitions are linked to those used for the Local Plan and noted that the project will enable the facility to meet Sport England requirements.
- 4.4 In relation to the Special School project, having noted the information that is currently outstanding, the Panel has emphasised that if the school is to receive pupils from other local authority areas then those areas should contribute towards the project costs.
- 4.5 For projects where the recommendation is that the application for CIL funding should be declined, Members have accepted the reasons given.
- 4.6 The Panel welcomed the report and the transparency that it has given to the CIL application process. Members supported those schemes that are recommended for approval and would like to see them progress.