

Public/Confidential(Part2)*

Key Decision – Yes/No

* Delete as applicable

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: CIL Governance – Phase 2 (Strategic Allocation)

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny – Performance & Growth 4th February Cabinet – 10th February

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources (BM), Executive Councillor for Planning (TS)

Report by: Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Place) (MG), Interim Corporate Director (Finance and& Resources) and Section 151 Officer (S151) (LM)

Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report sets out Stage 2 of the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Governance Review, building on the Statement of Intent agreed in June 2024.

It proposes a strategic, programmed approach to the allocation of the strategic proportion of CIL, ensuring that funding decisions remain evidence based, aligned with the Council's strategic priorities, and responsive to the evolving context of planning reform and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Significant national changes—including the introduction of Spatial Development Strategies, potential Mayoral CIL, and the Government's intention to accelerate planning and infrastructure delivery—create a need for the Council to refine how it utilises CIL to support growth.

At the same time, the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2046, alongside the Huntingdonshire Futures Strategy, identifies major infrastructure requirements that will rely on CIL in combination with other funding sources.

The report proposes two complementary approaches:

1. Strategic Allocation of CIL: establishing a transparent, annually published pipeline of strategic scale infrastructure projects that unlock or support growth, align with corporate and place based strategies, and demonstrate strong evidence of need and deliverability.
2. Use of CIL towards Council Capital Programme Projects: enabling CIL to be applied more flexibly to eligible Council led schemes, reducing reliance on borrowing and reserves, improving long term financial sustainability, and allowing forward funding where appropriate.

Both approaches preserve the existing mechanisms for collecting CIL, protect the meaningful proportion due to Towns and Parishes, and maintain opportunities for local stakeholders and infrastructure providers to bid for funding through ongoing CIL rounds. A minimum CIL balance will also be retained to ensure continuity of funding for local projects and short-term infrastructure needs.

In the context of LGR, these proposals provide a pragmatic route to maximising the use of CIL for the benefit of Huntingdonshire ahead of the establishment of new unitary authorities in April 2028; and future changes including Mayoral CIL and the Spatial Development Strategy which will be vested with the CPC. The recommendations seek to balance responsiveness to growth pressures, financial prudence, and the need for clear governance, while ensuring transparency and alignment with regulatory requirements.

Recommendation(s):

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider and comment on the proposals.

