



Richmond upon Thames Village Planning Fund Information Pack

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Introduction



The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax collected by Richmond upon Thames Council on liable developments and paid by developers. The CIL allows the Council to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in the borough to support and fund new infrastructure that the Council and local communities want.

It is charged on all developments taking place under planning permission granted from 1st November 2014, which comprise as a dwelling, or more than 100sqm of new floor space. The CIL is charged at a rate per square metre and varies according to land use and



location. Richmond CIL charging schedule can be found on the Richmond website.

In Richmond, a portion of the total tax collected in an area will be spent on local priorities. This is the neighbourhood portion of CIL; the Village Planning Fund.



Richmond Council approved allocation and spends of the Village Planning Fund in March 2017. The approach was drawn from a series of consultations and workshops run with officers, Members and the community.

- 15% of CIL will be spent on local priorities in areas other than those which have adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Ham and Petersham have a Neighbourhood Forum, should a Neighbourhood Plan be adopted then a different approach would apply.
- A village cluster system is best placed to recognise the impact that development can have beyond Village boundaries and to maximise the amount spent locally.

What can Community Infrastructure Levy be spent on?

Of the total tax collected from liable developments, 80% is subject to regulations and guidance listed below. The key restrictions are:

- CIL should be spent on infrastructure including: roads and other transport, schools and other education, community facilities, health, sport/recreation and open spaces (but not affordable housing);
- The infrastructure funded must support the development of the area;
- CIL can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing infrastructure, if needed to support development;
- Section 106 financial obligations should not in future be secured to fund the same infrastructure project as has been identified as to be funded by CIL, unless it is infrastructure required to make that development acceptable in planning terms;
- Funding from no more than five Section 106 Agreements can be pooled to fund the same item of

infrastructure, as CIL funds will now be brought together to fund bigger borough-wide infrastructure such as schools and health facilities.



Village Planning Fund spending

In Richmond 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy is to be spent locally in areas which have a Village Plan. According to the CIL regulations, in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted this is increased to 25%. Find out more about Neighbourhood Planning at: www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2

The Village Planning Fund can be spent on anything which addresses the **‘demand that development places on an area.’**

This *could* include the examples

listed below:

Physical infrastructure

- Contributing to wider initiatives of urban realm uplift
- Street scene improvements to allow areas to be better used
- Contributing to borough greening initiatives
- Making environments more accessible and Disability Discrimination Act compliant
- Improvements to wildlife habitat and environmental initiatives

- Increasing the variety of play & fitness equipment
- Supply and installation of bike racks/storage
- Enhanced and new cycle routes
- Improvements to community buildings

Social Infrastructure

Projects that use digital solutions to include more vulnerable or marginalised residents

- Provision of community facilities and equipment
- Outreach provision to support more isolated members of the community

The Village Planning Fund should be spent in line with local priorities – these have been established through the ongoing Village Planning process. (*View Village Plans at*

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/myrichmond/village_plans)

In Richmond the following criteria have been developed in consultation with the Ward Councillors and the community. Applications must meet criteria 1-6 to be considered. Further weight will be given to applications which can also demonstrate criteria 7-8.

- 1. Must address the impact of development resulting in an increased number of people living in, or using your local area, and be for community benefit.**
- 2. Must be aligned with priorities which are identified in the Village Plans**
- 3. Must not have any ongoing revenue implications for the Council**
- 4. Must be able to be started within the year ahead; beginning at the point at which the application is successful.**
- 5. Should have endorsement from at least 2 Councillors within the cluster area.**
- 6. Total funding requested should not exceed total amount available and must be more than £ 5,000 – applications less than £5000 will be considered on exception if they demonstrate**

significant benefit to the community and are not eligible for Civic Pride Funding

7. ***Evidence of match funding*** (including volunteer time, in kind)
8. ***Value for money: impact a project will have and the difference it makes to the local community.***

Application Process

The allocation of the Village Planning Fund will be managed through an application process. The process will be run bi-annually as taxes are continually being collected from developers in the borough.



Application process opens
Applicants are invited to attend a Village Planning Fund information workshop lead by the Richmond Council for Voluntary Services

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- You will be then required to liaise with an appropriate Council Officer who will give comments on the viability of your application
All applications received will be validated against the criteria by the Village Planning Programme Board



Validated applications will then go out to a public consultation to gauge wider support.
A report is compiled summarising all applications, officer comments and the public consultation result



A final decision will be made by the Joint Deputy Leader-Strategic Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Development

Successful applicants will be contacted and ask to complete the Funding Level Agreement

Second Round Application Timetable

Second round applications

Monday 5th Feb to Friday 6th April.

Application workshops will be led by Richmond Council for Voluntary Services on the 30th January and the 1st March 2018.

Village Planning Programme Board

7th May. Projects will be measured against the Village Planning Fund criteria by a Board of senior council officers. Validated projects will then proceed to the next stage.

The public consultation stage

The **applicants** will be responsible for promoting their projects to gain votes. **The consultation is likely to take place during the month of June.**

Final decision announcement

August 2018 Members decision based on:

Council officer recommendations

Public consultation results

Evidence of community benefit

Ability to deliver within agreed timescales and viability

Other funding available in the borough

If your project does not fit the Village Planning Fund criteria then please view alternative funding available;



Civic Pride Fund supports projects in Richmond upon Thames which benefit local people and make a positive difference to our borough.



Town Centre Opportunities Fund all town centres across the borough are invited to develop and submit plans for their shopping areas. Funding typically supports initiatives and events that improve business, raise the profile of a retail area or addresses important local business issues.



Community Learning Fund is for courses or activities delivered in the borough of Richmond which benefit Richmond residents.



Community Pavement Repair Fund is an annual community pavement funding pot available for highway maintenance in each of the 14 villages of Richmond.

Local funders

The Council has commissioned Richmond CVS as a support and advice service to help organisations identify and apply for funding. They have a list of local funders and can also provide one to one support with fundraising.

Other funders may be able to provide match funding for the Village Planning Fund, supporting revenue costs, or may be able to fully fund your project.

Richmond Parish Lands Charity supports residents in TW9, TW10, SW13 and SW14 with crisis grants, educational grants and charitable housing. Support is also provided through grant to organisations supporting residents and sports associations, CICs and CIOs, and start-ups with a charitable purpose.

Hampton Fuel Allotments Charity supports voluntary sector organisations to provide services and activities for people in need. Their area of benefit covers the following areas within Richmond upon Thames: Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton.

The Barnes Workhouse Fund supports voluntary organisations located in the “Ancient Parish of Barnes”, which broadly corresponds with the present postal area of London SW13.

London Community Foundation lists an overview of grants available in Richmond.

