

Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

1	What is being reviewed?	<p>Prioritisation of spending of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</p> <p>Note: Planning policies deal separately with themes covered in section 7 and are not covered here. The Cabinet report is focused on spending and delivery of the strategic infrastructure needed to support the changes and growth identified by evidence and policies.</p>
2	What changes are being made?	<p>Cabinet is being asked to provide a decision about how to spend the funding available for Strategic CIL over the next 5 years to provide clarity for project planning. Strategic CIL income is around £4million a year, plus some unspent/unallocated funding.</p> <p>The demand and potential spend on Strategic CIL on delivering infrastructure far exceeds the funding available and so prioritisation is needed.</p> <p>The demand has been identified by a range of Council Services and amounts to more than £100million. The 'pot' available is £29.3million.</p> <p>Spending of Strategic CIL funding has previously been considered in an ad hoc manner as requests were made and potential equalities impacts were therefore not identified/considered until projects were more fully prepared. This revised approach aims to bring a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to consideration of the needs in advance, a better policy framework and ensure equality impacts are considered earlier on as part of this process.</p> <p>4 options are considered in the Cabinet report.</p> <p>Further Cabinet approval and EqlA will still be required for projects when the detail is available.</p> <p>Background: CIL collected from development is for spending on infrastructure to support planned growth set out in the local plan. CIL receipts are split as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic CIL – Up to 80% • Town/Parish Councils & Neighbourhood Portion – 15% (rising to 25% if a neighbourhood plan is in place). Not included in this Cabinet decision • Admin – 5% Not included in this Cabinet decision <p>The 2008 Planning Act Regulation 216 requires that CIL is used to support '<i>development by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure</i>', with infrastructure defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roads and other transport facilities; • flood defences; • schools and other educational facilities; • medical facilities;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational facilities; and • open spaces.
3	Service Unit:	Planning and Transport
4	Participants in the conversation:	Steve Dring Caroline Peach
5	Conversation date/s:	22 October 2024 17 December 2024 28 January 2025
6	Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<p>Yes. The Strategic CIL is intrinsically linked to the future development growth of the area. The spatial expression of this is through the Local Plan, prepared by the Council's local planning authority.</p> <p>The planning policy database is comprehensive. Our adopted Statement of Community Involvement 2020 (SCI) sets out how BCP Council as the local planning authority will involve and engage with the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation Local Development Plan documents including neighbourhood plans. This is because planning policies shape the future of our area and determine where people live, work, shop, spend their leisure time, and how they travel around the area.</p> <p>The SCI sets out a wide range of specific consultation bodies and general consultation bodies, that the LPA must consult as required by the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. In addition, interested parties, residents and other groups and organisations can request to be added to our planning policy database to be kept informed of planning policy consultations. The database contains several equalities groups to ensure we notify a wide range of organisations, or bodies representing those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The database includes Beaumont Society, Dorset Mental Health Forum, Bourne Free, Disability Wessex, Stonewall, Body Positive, Race Equality Council, DOTs Disability, Diverse Abilities, Break Free Intercom Trust, Fawcett Society, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Pro Disability, Help and Care, Care South, Bournemouth Interpreters Group and Access Dorset.</p> <p>Document EXAM 3 of the BCP Local Plan examination is a summary of the representations received on the draft Local Plan before it was submitted for examination. Reg 19 consultation responses - merged 17072024.xlsx Examples of comments received which are relevant to this EqlA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised that the Plan does not meet local housing need and that this will negatively impact children and the elderly. • There was support for allocation of sites for sports as these would be good for the mental and physical health of children and young people. <p>The Plan is still going through examination.</p>

7	<p>Do different groups have different needs or experiences? age (young/old), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, members of the armed forces community, any other factors/groups e.g. socio-economic status, carers, human rights.</p>	<p>Yes, the groups with protected characteristics within BCP will have different needs and experiences in terms of their future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Using the Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights (2017) and the six areas of life or 'domains' some examples from the Cabinet report options are provided to show how different groups' needs may be met or impacted:</p> <p>Education Census data for BCP shows that there were 75,143 school children and full-time students in 2021. This is 19.7% of all residents aged 5 years+. This is an increase in the number of school children and full-time students since 2011, when the figure was 18.8%.</p> <p>Winton East ward has the highest number of school children and students aged 5+ years at 40.6% of the population (4,572). Followed by Bournemouth Central ward with 37.9% of the population (5,968) and Wallisdown and Winton West with 30.4% (3,141). This reflects the location of the Universities.</p> <p>The wards lowest number of school children and students aged 5+ years are Westbourne and West Cliff with 9.5% (947) and Canford Cliffs 10.3% (939).</p> <p>The census reflects where school children and students have been and are living currently. The cabinet report is about future provision in growth areas for example new schools are likely to be needed to serve the needs of families and school aged children in north Poole (Merley and Bearwood), where new homes are under construction. This is explicitly identified in 3 out of 4 of the options in the Cabinet report. The option that does not include specific allocation of funding to education does not prevent a future decision from doing so.</p> <p>The future needs and provision of school places will continue to be monitored to try to match the need in the best locations.</p> <p>Work The most recent ONS data for BCP (2023) states that the areas employing most people within BCP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health (18.5%) • Accommodation and food services (9.8%) • Retail (9.2%) • Business administration and support, Education and Financial and insurance (each at 7.2%) <p>The number of people employed full time and part time remain relevantly unchanged between 2017 and 2023: 2017 - 63.8% fulltime and 36.2% part time 2023 – 64.5% fulltime and 35.5% part time</p> <p>The provisional 2024 median weekly earning figures are lower in BCP than the comparison areas (Dorset, SW, SE and England), for those who are resident and work in the BCP area.</p> <p>Work is not explicitly mentioned in the 4 options in the</p>
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	<p>Cabinet report. However, flood defenses and transport are highly important for safeguarding places of work and access to them.</p> <p>Flood defenses and Transport are specifically addressed in all 4 options. This infrastructure spend options will enable those of working age, all genders and those at a socio-economic disadvantage to have convenient and healthy commuting routes, by walking, cycling or public transport. This will enable those with this protected characteristic to benefit from employment opportunities to meet their needs.</p> <p>Living standards</p> <p>Census data for BCP states that BCP has a population of 400,196 people. The main home types are detached houses (36%), purpose built flats (27%) and semi-detached houses (17%).</p> <p>In BCP, there has been a significant increase in the number of people aged 70-74 years between 2011 and 2021 (+40%) and 75-79 (+16%), also 50-54 (+18%) and 55-59 (+27%) . Increases also in the 5-9 age group (+20%) and 10 to 14 age (+13%). There have been significant decreases in 0 to 4 years (-10%), 25 to 29 years (-7%), 45 to 49 (-7%).</p> <p>Strategic CIL is linked to the delivery of large infrastructure projects essential to support local plan growth, which is currently between 1200 (average number of new homes completed in recent years) and 1600 (proposed number of new homes a year in the draft BCP Local Plan).</p> <p>All 4 options aim to meet the needs of a future BCP population, through the provision of new homes and the supporting critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Not providing the critical infrastructure which allows planning permissions to be granted for new homes e.g address habitat regulations, would result in a stagnation of new housing provision of many housing types, which would negatively impact the living standards of BCP residents. It would for example result in limited choice for young and newly forming families to have a home and limited provision for those with long term health problems or disability (including relating to old age) which limits their day-to-day activities.</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Census data for BCP shows that 52% of the BCP population was not deprived and 48% were deprived. A significant proportion of the population therefore has 1 or more deprivation characteristics relating to employment, education, health and disability and housing.</p> <p>These impacts can be on a range of people with protected characteristics, notably: children and young people, elderly, socio-economically disadvantaged, armed forces community, disabled, race.</p> <p>Health can be impacted by the other deprivation characteristics in terms of both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Access to open space helps people connect</p>
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	<p>with nature to benefit their physical mental and emotional health.</p> <p>Option 3 specifically mentions Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Leisure and Recreation, which support the health needs of both younger age groups and older people. The expectations of different ages and other groups is acknowledged and would be looked at in more detail in the detailed provision and design.</p> <p>Note that £3.9 million has already been allocated by Cabinet (Dec 2024) towards the repair and restoration of play equipment from Strategic CIL, which will directly benefit the health of younger age groups. This provision is also important to support the health of more vulnerable socio-economic groups.</p> <p>Options 1 and 2 and 4 do not prevent further investment in health related infrastructure. Site specific issues and identified need can also still be raised at the time a planning application is considered which may trigger the need for health provision.</p> <p>Infrastructure to support growth and change in BCP includes protection of habitats. The health spectrum covers both flora, fauna, marine life, and human health. Strengthening biodiversity makes the environment more resilient to climate change which impacts on all species and the local community. Measures to improve adaptation to the changing climate are necessary to keep a community healthy. Heat affects residents differently depending on their stage of life and if they cannot regulate their body temperature including the very young and the very old. It could also affect those who are weakened by life limiting illness, disability or those with certain religions who are required to dress according to their faith.</p> <p>All 4 options explicitly includes prioritization of protected habitat sites. This also meets environmental legal requirements which enable planning permission to be granted.</p> <p>Justice and personal security. Census data for BCP notes that 91% of the population is white (a decrease from 94% in 2011). The second largest ethnic group in 2021 was Asian (3.4%), followed by mixed or multi ethnic (2.8%), other ethnic group (1.5%) and Black (1.1%)</p> <p>All the proposed options in the Cabinet report seek to provide delivery of infrastructure that will protect people, homes and businesses from flood. This will protect people of different races, religion, those with a disability, young and old and keep them safe.</p> <p>Participation. The process of prioritization and refinement of the 4 options has been a technical rather than one directly via public engagement and participation. Services across the Council and external organisations were asked to submit infrastructure projects for consideration. The 4 options set out in the Cabinet report are the outcome of those exchanges</p>
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		<p>and submissions. Many of those who provided information have already and will continue to carry out their own consultations to understand the needs of their areas.</p> <p>Option 4 is the only option which has explicitly arisen from resolving public concerns over planning applications.</p>
8	Will this change affect any service users?	When Cabinet make a decision on Strategic CIL spending priorities, service users will have clarity on how funding from development is being spent for the next 5 years. Further approval will still be required for projects when the detail is available.
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10	What are the benefits or positive equality impacts of the change on current or potential users?	Spending on critical infrastructure that ensures that planning permission can be granted for new homes, protects habitats, protects people and property from flood risk, supports transport and education, will benefit the lives and health of people with families, disabilities, genders, faiths, ethnicities, sexual orientations.
11	What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	No negative impacts have been identified.
12	Will the change affect employees?	The change/decision will affect employees who are looking for Strategic CIL to be the funding mechanism for delivery of their projects. There will be those who will have support for their projects and others who will need to find alternative or additional funding.
13	Will the change affect the wider community?	The change/decision will affect the wider community in that some infrastructure projects will be funded and some won't or they may be delayed while alternative funding sources are found. Those who visit BCP will be similarly affected by the decision taken.
14	What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	Those who have had their projects rejected already because they do not meet the Strategic CIL criteria or because they have been regarded as not critical to the delivery of the Local Plan, have been or will be informed, so that they begin at the earliest opportunity to find alternative funding or delay their projects.
15	Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>Spending on critical infrastructure that ensures that planning permission can be granted for new homes, protect habitats, protect people and property from flood risk, support transport and education, will benefit the lives and health of people with families, older people, disabilities, genders, faiths, ethnicities, sexual orientations.</p> <p>Option 1 is the least clear in terms of what benefits it could provide for those with protected characteristics as it is the most open and flexible. The Council can however, choose to prioritise those with protected characteristics with the flexible portion of the funding.</p>

	<p>Option 2 whilst also flexible is clearer on what most of the funding would be spent on compared with option 1. This option most strongly delivers the essential infrastructure for Local Plan growth, which the Council has consulted on, including in relation to equalities. This means that it would most be the best option to ensure that new homes can be granted planning permission. This benefits many people with protected characteristics. The Council can also choose to prioritise those with protected characteristics with the flexible portion of the funding.</p> <p>Option 3 - The percentage cuts to each service relates to the projects that have been identified. It therefore provides the broadest range of spending areas, which may reach a broader range of people with protected characteristics. It is particularly strong in relation to addressing age. But it may not sufficiently address the essential infrastructure needs which could hinder development of new homes and limit the benefits to those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Option 4 also has a broad range of spending areas, but narrower than Option 3. Option 4 is the only option that proposes some spending directly on doctors' surgeries, which would benefit most people with protected characteristics. However, it may not sufficiently address the essential infrastructure needs which could hinder development of new homes and limit the benefits to those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>All 4 options proposed for the spending of Strategic CIL will have benefits for those with protected characteristics. No negative impacts have been identified. Option 1 is the weakest option for identified benefits. Option 2 is better and most strongly relates to the Local Plan consultation process, which considered equalities and facilitates delivery of new homes for a range of people. Options 3 and 4 would reach and likely benefit the broadest range of people with protected characteristics.</p>
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Summary of the options in relation to people with protected characteristics

Protected characteristics	Option 1 Critical mitigation (40%) and flexibility* (60%)	Option 2 Essential infrastructure (80%) and flexibility* (20%)	Option 3 Service areas receive a proportion** (based on identified projects)	Option 4 Focussed on public concerns (to address issues where development takes place) with flexibility* (11%)
Age	New schools – (supporting education) not explicitly included, but could still be accommodated	New schools – (supporting education) explicitly included. Other age supporting infrastructure could still be accommodated.	New schools – (supporting education) and Housing enabling and regeneration (supporting living standards) and green infrastructure (supporting health) – explicitly included	New schools – (supporting education) and open space/play (supporting living standards and health) - explicitly included
Gender reassignment, Married/civil partnership, Pregnant/maternity leave, Disability, Race, Religion/belief, Sex, Sexual orientation	Flood defence and habitat mitigation explicitly included – supports work, living standards, health and personal security . Other supporting infrastructure could still be accommodated, but proportion of clear spend is low	Flood defence, habitat mitigation and transport explicitly included – supports work, living standards, health, personal security and participation (public concerns about transport) Other supporting infrastructure could still be accommodated. Flexibility/certainty is higher.	Flood defence, habitat mitigation, transport, green infrastructure, culture, waste explicitly included – supports work, living standards, health and personal security and participation (public concerns about transport)	Flood defence, habitat mitigation, transport, health/surgeries explicitly included – supports work, living standards, health and personal security and participation (public concerns about transport, education, open space, health)

*Flexibility to address corporate or other objectives

**Funding fully allocated

Green = benefits

Orange = benefits unclear/low

Red = negative impacts