

**Councillor Richard Beddoe
Cabinet Member for Place Shaping
and Planning**

Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

(020) 7641 2621
rbeddoe@westminster.gov.uk

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The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 'Neighbourhood Portion' application process

We are a Council that takes great pride in putting local people at the heart of local development and decision making. Thanks to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) there is now a growing pot of money that we are inviting local groups to bid for to make real and lasting improvements they would like to see in their neighbourhoods.

The CIL is a charge applied to development to help fund both strategic and local infrastructure projects in Westminster. Some of the funds that are collected are called the 'neighbourhood portion' which is for local people to propose where they want to see things made better.

The Council currently has just over £6m in this pot which is now open for community bids, although there is not an equal split in terms of the amount available for each area. The way the system works is that where there's more development there is a larger pot of money to spend in that area. There are currently funds available so that nearly every part of the city can benefit from neighbourhood CIL projects. You can see how much money is available in each area in Appendix A.

What's most exciting about neighbourhood CIL projects is that it is for local people to come together and put forward proposals, through an application process, for what they want to see improved in their area with support from the Council to make it happen. For example, this could be a new play or sports facilities, safe road crossings or other creative proposals that would improve local spaces and places and benefit the local community.

It's important that every application can demonstrate wide local engagement and broad support. In many areas, Neighbourhood Forums have been set up to address issues of local importance and highlight infrastructure priorities through neighbourhood plans. To help support this work, we will prioritise and encourage applications through Neighbourhood Forums, where they exist, and we would encourage resident and community groups to work with their local forum in any application.

Where there isn't a Neighbourhood Forum in place, or in areas of the city not covered by a neighbourhood area, other community groups will be invited to submit proposals, including amenity societies and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). If you're not sure whether your area is covered by a forum then please see Appendix B for details.

It is planned that there will be two separate opportunities to apply for funds each year. Applications will initially be evaluated against the already agreed criteria in the CIL Spending Policy Statement and assessed as to whether they can be delivered. A CIL Governance Group of senior Council officers will then make recommendations to the Cabinet CIL Committee of Councillors who will take the final decision.

A successful application will need to follow these guidelines. They should be:

- **Plan led** – proposed projects should be in line with the principles and policies of relevant Council or related plans, including Westminster's City Plan 2016; the Mayor's London Plan any relevant neighbourhood plans or other strategies
- **Support growth** – proposed projects should support the growth of the local area and Westminster as a whole
- **Supported by the community** – proposed projects will need the support of the local community, residents and businesses and enjoy the support of at least two Westminster Ward Councillors in the area
- **Cost effective** – the project should represent value for money and we would encourage feasibility work to be completed in advance of a bid where possible
- **Supported by infrastructure providers** – proposals should be supported by those who would be responsible for delivering it, including the relevant Council service area

As this is a new process we appreciate that there are likely to be lots of questions and the team at the Council want to support you to make the most effective application. The best way to get in touch with support and to ask for advice is to e-mail cils106projects@westminster.gov.uk We are also running some application advice surgeries where you can make an appointment to meet and speak to the team directly about your application.

The application surgery dates are as follows:

- 2nd and 3rd July between 11am and 6pm at Westminster City Council, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP
- 9th and 10th July between 11am and 6pm at Westminster City Council, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP

In order to enable us to offer the best support, we will be offering individual one and a half hour slots on these days and request that anyone wanting to attend must book in advance via cils106projects@westminster.gov.uk

If there is great demand, then we will offer some further dates during the application process. We'll also use your feedback to see if we need to improve the process moving forward.

We are inviting applications from 12th June and they must be submitted by 24th July. A final decision will be taken by the Council's CIL committee in the autumn. The team will use the time between the closure of the application process and the CIL committee meeting to thoroughly check the viability of each application received, which will take some time.

We look forward to supporting you through the application process and seeing some innovative and ambitious proposals, large and small, coming through for consideration that will benefit our community and vibrant neighbourhoods for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,



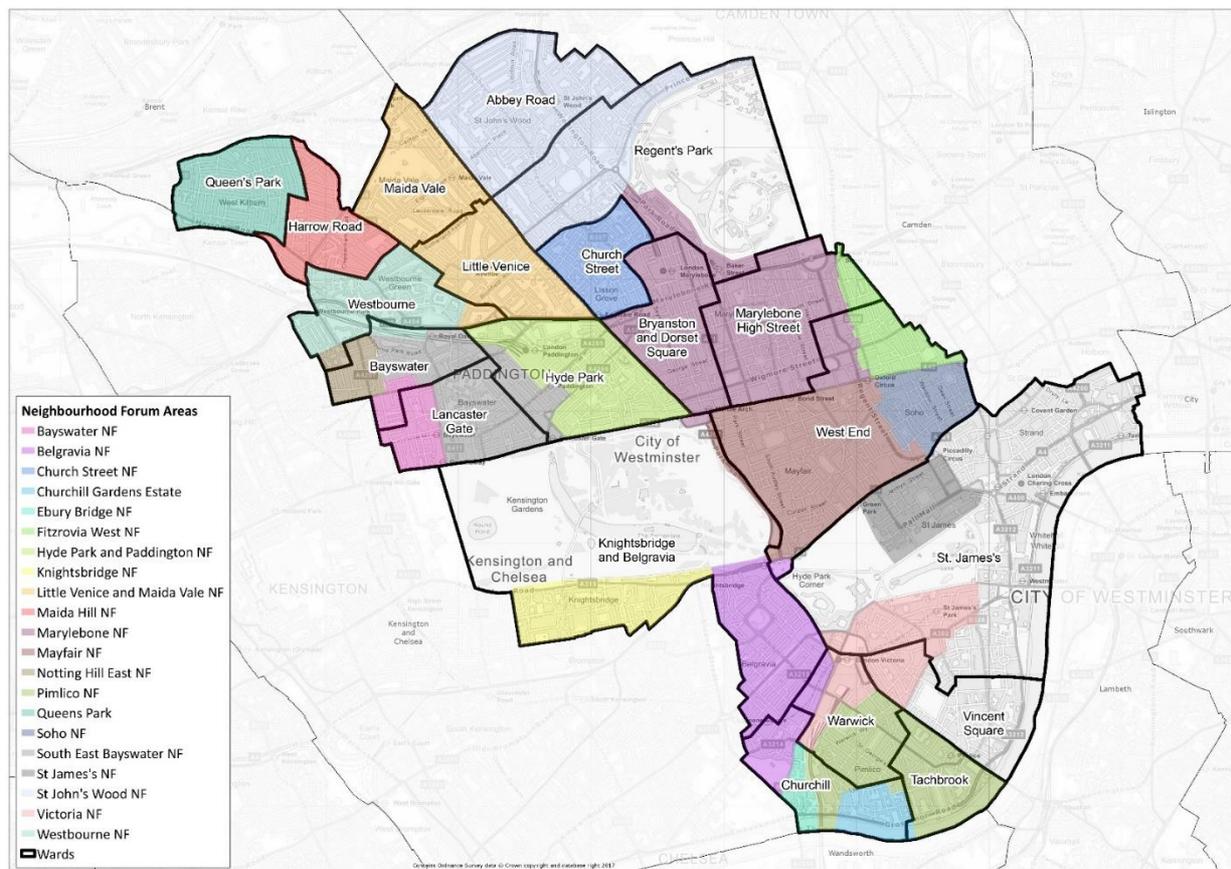
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Appendix A: The neighbourhood CIL Portion, 5th June 2019

Neighbourhood area	Neighbourhood CIL available
Queens Park	£1,488
Notting Hill East	£9,945
Bayswater	£14,160
Little Venice and Maida Vale	£1,008,916
Belgravia	£290,732
Church Street	£6,600
Churchill Gardens Estate	£0.00
Ebury Bridge	£0.00
Fitzrovia West	£279,906
Hyde Park and Paddington	£623,250
Knightsbridge	£30,639
Maida Hill	£420
Marylebone	£1,097,736
Mayfair	£814,387
Pimlico	£0.00
Soho	£286,968
South East Bayswater	£31,630
St James's	£4,311
St John's Wood	£290,677
Victoria	£109,890
Vincent Square	£11,932
Westbourne	£180,779
Outside Neighbourhood areas	£936,828
Total	£6,031,195

Appendix B: Neighbourhood Areas and Forums in Westminster

Neighbourhood Areas



Neighbourhood Forums in Westminster

Neighbourhood Area	Neighbourhood Forum
Bayswater	-
Belgravia	Belgravia
Church Street	Church Street Ward
Churchill Gardens Estate	Churchill Gardens
Ebury Bridge Village	-
Fitzrovia (West)	Fitzrovia West
Hyde Park and Paddington	Hyde Park and Paddington
Knightsbridge	Knightsbridge
Little Venice and Maida Vale	-
Maida Hill	Maida Hill
Marylebone	Marylebone
Mayfair	Mayfair
Notting Hill East	Notting Hill East
Pimlico	Pimlico
Queen's Park	Queen's Park Community Council
St. James's	St. James's
St. John's Wood	St. John's Wood
Soho	Soho
South East Bayswater	-
Victoria	Victoria
Westbourne	Westbourne