

# **Wandsworth Local Fund**

# 2020

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#### Introduction

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax collected by Wandsworth Borough Council on liable developments within the borough. The CIL allows the Council to raise funds from developers undertaking new construction projects in the borough to support and fund new infrastructure that the Council and local communities want to be put in place.

The levy is placed on all developments taking place under planning permission granted by the council from **1st November 2012**, 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. The Wandsworth CIL charging schedule can be found <u>here</u>.



# What can the Community Infrastructure Levy be spent on?

Of the total tax collected from liable developments, 80% is subject to the following key restrictions:

- CIL should be spent on infrastructure including: roads and other transport-related infrastructure, schools and other educational centres, community facilities, health, sport/recreation and open spaces (but not on affordable housing);
- The infrastructure funded must support the economic and social 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 boroughwide infrastructure such as schools and health facilities.

#### The Wandsworth Local Fund

In Wandsworth, 15% of the total CIL collected in an area will be spent on specific local priorities. This is the neighbourhood portion of the levy; known as the Wandsworth Local Fund (WLF). According to the CIL regulations, in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted this is increased to 25%. Please <u>click here</u> to find out more about Neighbourhood plans.

Wandsworth Local Fund neighbourhoods:

- Putney (including East Putney, Roehampton, Thamesfield, West Hill, and West Putney wards);
- Wandsworth (including Earlsfield, Fairfield, Wandsworth Common, and Southfields wards);
- Battersea (including Latchmere, Northcote, Shaftesbury, St Mary's Park wards and parts of Queenstown ward);
- Balham (including Balham, Bedford, and Nightingale wards);
- Tooting (including Furzedown, Graveney, and Tooting wards);
- Nine Elms\* (parts of Queenstown ward).

An interactive digital map of the borough can be found <u>here.</u>

\*neighbourhood currently closed to applications.

### What can the Wandsworth Local Fund support?

The Wandsworth Local Fund can be spent on anything which addresses the 'demand that development places on an area.'

This could include projects similar to the examples listed below:

#### Physical infrastructure

- Environmental improvements (litter clearances, landscaping, open space works);
- New play area equipment;
- New library equipment;
- Additional parking spaces;
- Improvements to community buildings.

#### Social infrastructure

- Provision of community facilities (libraries, health services, youth centres);
- Provision of equipment to support community services.

#### **Selection Criteria**

The following criteria have been developed in consultation with Wandsworth ward Councillors and the borough community:

- 1. The scheme should not have any revenue implications to the Council;
- 2. The estimated total cost of scheme should be over £20,000;
- 3. The project must not cost more than the levy income available;
- 4. The scheme should be able to be started within the year ahead;
- 5. The proposal should have sponsorship/endorsement by at least one ward Councillor, with more weight given to those schemes with a greater proportion of Councillor support;
- 6. The application will be considered more favourably if they benefit a greater number of residents/businesses
- 7. The application should demonstrate that all other forms of funding have been considered;
- 8. The scheme should demonstrate that it is value for money.

In line with the Council's commitment to tackle climate change we particularly welcome applications with a Climate change and sustainability focus. For example, relating to energy efficiency, air quality, water management, urban greening and open spaces, planning and sustainable development, waste management, and sustainable transport.

# **The Application Process**

The Wandsworth Local Fund will be allocated through a bi-annual application process.

When the fund opens, ward Members are informed via email and have approximately two months to work with community groups and Council services to complete the application form. Information will also be provided on the Council website and via a press release.

We would encourage residents who have a relevant project idea to approach their ward Councillor in the first instance.

Completed application forms are sent to WLF@wandsworth.gov.uk.

A senior officer board reviews applications in line with current delivery, viability, value for money, need and impact on the community.

Recommendations are put forward to be agreed by the Leader of the Council, Director and Scrutiny Committees.

## When can I expect to receive a decision about my application?

The time it takes to make a decision depends upon the committee cycles and dates for Overview and Scrutiny meetings. We aim to have a decision within 12- 14 weeks of the application closing date.