



Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Funding

Information Session 2025/2026



What we will cover today:

- What are Area Committees?
- What is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 funding?
- What types of projects do CIL and S106 fund?
- How to apply for CIL/S106 funding
- The 2025/2026 decision-making process & timeline

What is Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funding?

- As part of the planning process, a developer often must give money to the council to pay for improvements in the area where their development is taking place
- This is through a planning charge called the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** or a planning obligation called a **Section 106 (S106)** agreement
- A lot of this money goes to funding city-wide strategic projects, but some is devolved to Area Committees as Local CIL.
- Find S106 agreements in your area [here](#).

Equity Fund

- A small portion of incoming CIL payments are put into an Equity Fund.
- This is a city-wide fund
- Aims to support infrastructure and local improvement projects in areas of greatest deprivation, recognising that CIL is not evenly distributed
- Applications considered as part of Area Committee annual decision-making process.
- Funding allocations made by Public Health and Communities Policy Committee.

How can CIL be used?

CIL funds can only be used to **support the development of the local area** by funding:

- **The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure;**
- **Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.**

How can CIL be used? - Examples

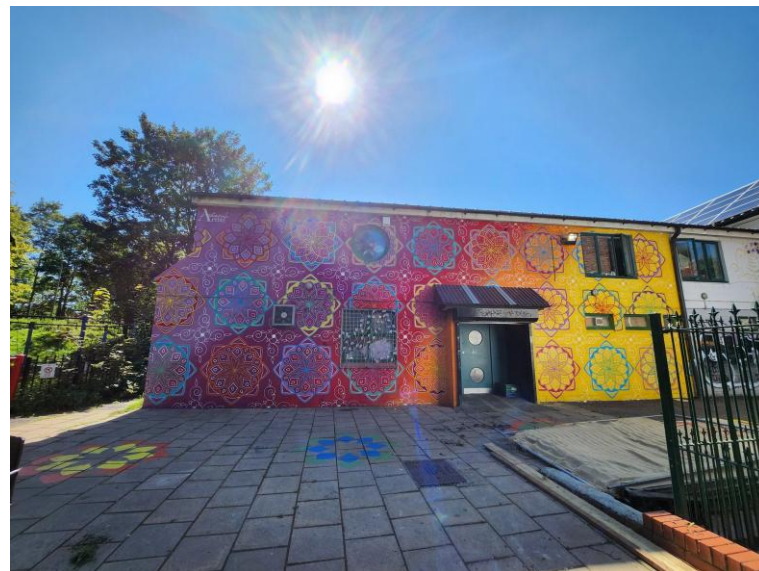
- ✓ **Community centre improvements-** It's provision of infrastructure AND could address a demand which development places on an area if it addresses need for more facilities arising from new housing/increases in population etc.
- ✓ **Creation of a community garden-** It's provision of infrastructure AND could address additional demand development places on green spaces
- ✓ **Employment programme to support young people entering local industry-** It's not infrastructure but addresses the demand development can place on the local labour market.
- ✗ **An alley gating scheme -** It's infrastructure – but it only benefits a restricted section of the population. It's a private rather than public benefit
- ✗ **A grant to enable young people to be provided with musical instruments -** It isn't infrastructure which supports development nor does it appear to address a demand that development places on an area

Example: Owen Square Community Safety

Area Committee 4, Owen Square Park

£20,000 of CIL in 2021

- New murals and planting for park and alleyway near community centre. **Resident-led** park improvements.
- Aim to **reduce anti-social behaviour** and **increase feeling of safety** in park for **increased enjoyment**.
- Creation of **active residents' parks** group with 25 members to take ownership of the park and engage with BCC.
- Approximately 100 hours of volunteer time.
- Allowed the nursery to feel **comfortable relocating their entrance**, meaning the community centre can adjust their opening hours to **better serve community needs**.



“The project has been an important focal point for the Parky Pals resident group to form and take leadership in caring for the park”

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Example: Meadow Vale Community Centre

Area Committee 6, St George Central

£200,000 of CIL in 2019 & £22,000 in 2022

- 97sqm extension to Meadowvale Community Centre
- Aim to **reduce health inequalities and offer inclusive activities**, now open 6-days a week with affordable exercise, cooking & gardening clubs.
- Logged **3072 hours** of volunteer time. New trustees have been recruited to represent the community.
- Already seeing increase in income - £15,200 target by Oct 2024 met, representing a **62% increase** from previous years.



“We use Meadow Vale Centre for our Falun Gong practice. We are a group of people mainly from the African/Caribbean community aged 60 plus. The location is easy to get to for our members and the space is suitable and rented to us at a price we can afford”. Paulette Blake, Falun Gong group

Example: Hideout Adventure Playground

Area Committee 8, The Big Hideout Adventure Playground

£10,000 of CIL in 2023

- New play structures for the playground to provide more opportunities for **physical, outdoor, imaginative play**.
- Build **trusted relationships** with children and staff.
- Creation of outdoor space in a ward that lacks green spaces.
- Support wider activities such as gardening wellbeing group.
- Play as an entrance point to **further wellbeing opportunities**.



“Parents are really enthusiastic about the changes. We’ve had lots of comments from them about how their kids are enjoying and coming more, and how it feels nice to see the playground get some more love and attention.

The people in the community definitely appreciate it”

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How much money is available?

- Each Area Committee has a different amount of money available
- The figure changes throughout the year and developments are complete
- Amounts available for each Area Committee are published [here](#) on the BCC website every quarter.
- Amount is dependant on the developments taking place across the whole area.

Timeline overview 2025-2026

Stage 1: November 2025- May 2026

Nov- March

- Submit proposals using a **Stage 1 form** by **23rd March 2026**
- **November:** use Improve My Street to make road safety and transport suggestions
- **February:** Community workshops with BCC teams

April- May

- Councillors hold information surgeries with BCC officers to get advice and scope
- Community prioritisation of proposals

May

- Area Committee meetings to shortlist Stage 1 proposals for Stage 2

Stage 2: June- Nov 2026

June- Nov

- Community organisations (private land) and BCC teams (public land) develop proposals and complete Stage 2 Full Project Proposal forms.

Sept

- **Submit proposals by 7th September** to Area Committees for assessment.

Nov

- Area Committee meetings to decide which projects to fund



Engaging with communities: Community Connectors

- Each Councillor nominates a local organisation to act as their 'Community Connector'.
- This group or organisation collaborates with their Councillors to **carry out community conversations** and enable discussions about priorities and suggestions for improvements to the area and how CIL funding could be spent.
- They **engage local communities in the Area Committee funding process.**
- A list of Community Connector Organisations can be found on our website.

Stage 1: Conversations to Identify Local Priorities

November-March

- Community and Councillor led.
- Engagement should be facilitated by a Community Connector organisation, working alongside councillors.
- Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations, residents, or Councillors fill out a Stage 1 form outlining the proposal.
 - If a proposal is on BCC land, Councillors and communities will work with officers to develop the idea into a proposal with feasibility and costing.
 - If a proposal is on private land, proposals must include estimated costs.
- Workshops with BCC teams

Completing the Stage 1 form

Before 23rd March

- Refer to [Guidance document](#) for information about eligibility criteria for voluntary / community organisations.
 - If your idea is on private land, or your group or organisation would like to directly deliver the work, you must meet the eligibility criteria to receive funds
 - Ideas must meet CIL criteria
 - Permission must be sought for community led projects on public land
 - Communities should work with Officers throughout the process
 - Must have Councillor endorsement
 - Community land ownership: costs must be given.
 - Public land: talk to your councillor to identify costs.
- Deadline for submitting [Stage 1 form](#): **23rd March 2026.**

Stage 1: Prioritisation

April- May

- **April:** BCC Officers provide advice to Councillors on the proposals to develop ideas and ensure projects are feasible.
- Councillors then engage with local communities to gather the community's views on which proposals are priorities. Prioritise before Area Committee meetings.

End of Stage 1: 1st Formal Area Committee meetings May/June

- Councillors negotiate to **agree a set of Stage 1 priorities to invite to develop a Full Proposal** – taking into account how much CIL and S106 budget is available and responding to comments and advice given by officers
- Councillors make formal funding decisions on **tree planting proposals** using dedicated Section 106 monies
- Community Resources team will communicate the results of these meetings with everyone who has submitted a Stage 1 form

Stage 2: Full Project Proposals

June - September

- Community organisations (community land) and BCC departments (public land) develop Full Project Proposals, with outcomes, timeline, and a budget.
- Full Project Proposals are required to:
 - Complete an **Equality Impact Assessment**
 - Identify how they deliver **access improvements**
 - All organisations applying to directly deliver project themselves must demonstrate they meet **eligibility criteria**.
- **Deadline: 7th September 2026**
- Community Resources team technically check all proposals from VCSE organisations for eligibility.

End of Stage 2: 2nd Formal Area Committee Meetings

October / November

- Area Committees make decisions about which full proposals to fund.
- Community Resources team notify colleagues and VCSE organisations about decision and set up funding agreements.
- Public Health and Communities Committee make Equity Fund allocations.

Stage 3: Grant management & delivery

Ongoing

- Community Resources team will:
 - issue funding agreements to external organisations
 - deal with requests for change to use of funds
 - respond to any queries from funded organisations
- Funded organisations must:
 - deliver the project
 - inform the Community Resources Team of any delays or changes in project delivery
 - send 6 monthly progress updates which get published on [BCC website](#)
 - complete end of project monitoring reports to share your success and celebrate the impact of your project

Other sources of information

For more information about Area Committees and the funding they allocate, you might want to have a look at the following pages on the council's website:

- [Your local area committees - bristol.gov.uk](http://bristol.gov.uk)
- [Funding for local projects - bristol.gov.uk](http://bristol.gov.uk)
- [How we spend Community Infrastructure Levy money - bristol.gov.uk](http://bristol.gov.uk)
- [How we allocate planning obligations money - bristol.gov.uk](http://bristol.gov.uk)
- [Community development](http://bristol.gov.uk)
- [Find your Ward Councillor](http://bristol.gov.uk)

Support

We are hosting **Public online drop-in sessions** to ask questions about the process, discuss the Stage 1 form, and get advice or support on how to get involved.

- Thursday 27th November: 5pm
- Wednesday 10th December: 12:30pm
- Monday 12th December: 5pm

Sign up to attend on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

Key Documents

Area Committee Timetable: [View here](#)

Guidance for applicants: [View here](#)

Stage 1 Form: [Access here](#)

Thank you

communities@bristol.gov.uk

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