



# Community Infrastructure Levy Fund Expression of Interest Guidance

January 2026





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## Introduction

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is paid to Cornwall Council by developers and must be used to mitigate the cumulative impact of development on communities. The CIL Fund is what remains after Town and Parish Councils have received their 'Neighbourhood Portion' of the CIL income, and after Cornwall Council, as the CIL Charging Authority, has retained five per cent for administering the process.

The CIL Regulations set out that authorities must apply CIL funding to 'the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support development of its area'. The CIL Fund can be spent on infrastructure that is needed to support development, such as (but not limited to):

- transport facilities
- flood defences
- schools and education
- health and social care
- open space and recreational facilities

CIL is collected in order to help development come forward, or to address the cumulative impact of development and the demands it may place on an area. The focus for the 2026 CIL Fund round is 'Connecting Communities', and examples of demands that development may place on an area within this theme include:

- The need to facilitate safe and easy movement through the area, such as good walking routes, cycle paths and community bus services.
- The need for community venues for events, activities and other opportunities.
- The need for high-quality outdoor space, especially where outdoor space is being lost during development.

CIL funding is being distributed through a competitive funding application process. Local infrastructure projects will be able to seek between £20,000 and £100,000.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

- **Successful projects will not receive all the funding awarded up front on approval of the application; funding must be claimed retrospectively on submission of evidence of expenditure during the course of project delivery.**
- **Projects must not be delivered before a decision on the funding application has been issued.**

The complete application process is:

- i) Expression of Interest (EOI) stage – EOIs are invited from constituted community groups, Town, City and Parish Councils, and not-for-profit organisations, to deliver local infrastructure projects that will improve connections between existing or new and existing communities. More detail on the information required at this stage is set out in sections 1 to 5 of this guidance document. **EOI's must be submitted by 3pm on Friday 27 February 2026** – any received after this time will not be accepted.
- ii) Assessment of EOIs will be undertaken by the Infrastructure Team to ensure the applicant and project eligibility criteria are met. Comments on EOIs will be sought from the CIL Funding Advisory Panel to provide local level input. Officers will take Panel comments into account ahead of issuing application invitations.

- iii) Outcomes of the EOI submissions will be communicated with the applicants by 31 March 2026. Applicants will be told they have either been unsuccessful and are not able to proceed further, or that they have been successful and are therefore invited to submit a full application.
- iv) Full Application stage – those successful at EOI stage will be invited to submit a full application and provided with an application form and guidance. Applicants will have three months to submit their application, but a specific deadline date will be provided at invitation stage.
- v) Assessment of full applications will be undertaken by the Infrastructure Team using an agreed set of criteria – this will be set out in the full application guidance (which is different to this EOI guidance). Applications will be scored against the criteria and recommended for approval in consideration of their score and the overall amount of money being sought from the CIL Fund.
- vi) The final decision on award of funding will be made by the Service Director for Planning and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Localism and Planning. It is anticipated that applicants will be advised on whether their projects have been awarded funding towards the end of 2026.
- vii) A funding agreement will be entered into between Cornwall Council and each successful applicant, and this will set out reporting requirements and agreed timeframes for fund payments.

**EOI's must be submitted by 3pm on Friday 27 February 2026** but can be submitted at any point up until this time. Forms must be sent to [cil@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cil@cornwall.gov.uk) - you will receive confirmation that the form has been received.

The following information is to provide further guidance with completing the EOI form. If you have any questions about your project or completing the EOI, or you are unable to submit the form by email, please contact the Infrastructure Team at [cil@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cil@cornwall.gov.uk) or telephone 0300 1234 151.

## 1. Applicant Details

Please provide all the details requested. It is essential that we have the contact details of an appropriate representative of the applicant organisation in order to advise the outcome of the EOI submission.

EOIs are invited from not-for-profit organisations and constituted community groups – this includes Town, City and Parish Councils. Applicants who successfully bid for CIL funding will be expected to enter into a legal agreement with the Council to ensure the money awarded is spent in accordance with the approved project proposal.

If the applicant is a community group or organisation other than a local Council or Cornwall Council service, and is successful at EOI stage, you will be expected to provide a copy of your group/ organisations governing document as part of your full application.

## 2. Eligibility Criteria

### Applicant eligibility

Please only tick one box and if you select 'other', please provide details. If the applicant has a registered charity or company number, please provide this in the space provided.

Please note that individuals cannot apply for CIL Funding. EOI's – and subsequent full applications – will only be accepted from Town, City and Parish Councils, constituted community groups and not-for-profit organisations (including Cornwall Council services). Applicants must be able to develop and deliver proposed projects themselves as Cornwall Council is not able to provide the resource to support groups to do this. However, applicants are encouraged to make their Cornwall Council Community Link Officer aware of their intention to submit an EOI for CIL funding – details of how to contact your local Community Link Officer can be found at [Community Area Partnerships - Cornwall Council](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/community-area-partnerships/)<sup>1</sup>.

### Project eligibility

The Planning Act 2008 provides a wide definition of infrastructure which can be funded by CIL, including (but not exclusively) transport facilities, flood defences, play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes, police stations and other community safety facilities.

CIL is predominantly spent on capital projects, although revenue spending associated with maintenance or operation of capital items is also permissible. CIL can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing infrastructure if that is necessary to support development, but it cannot be used to fund solutions to existing problems unless it can be shown that these will be made worse by new development.

For the 2026 CIL Fund round, the focus is on infrastructure that fits within the theme of 'Connecting Communities'. This could mean improving community spaces so more people can enjoy them or creating better links between places so it's easier to get around and feel connected. Proposals must have a link to development in the area.

## 3. Project Proposal

### Project Name

Tell us what your project is called – we will use this in publicity should your project be successful in applying for CIL support.

### Project Description

In no more than 250 words, use this section to explain what your project is, where it is, and what it will deliver. Explain why the project is needed, how this links to development that has taken, or is taking place in your area, and who will benefit from the project.

Try to be as concise as possible – you will have the opportunity to expand on this and provide more detail if invited to submit a full application. However, we need to see how your project links to mitigating the impact of development at this stage, so we can determine whether your project should be invited to full application.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/community-area-partnerships/>

Let us know what stage of development the project is at – is it ready to go subject to funding or does it still need some work – and try to summarise what a successful project would look like.

## **4. Value for Money**

We need to ensure that the funds we grant will be spent in a way that achieves the best outcomes. The information provided in this section will enable us to determine if your project would fit the fund parameters and will help us to understand the impact that CIL funding would have on the project.

Tell us about any other funding you have applied for or secured for the project – how much you have requested and whether it has been confirmed, i.e., whether a funding offer letter has been issued to you. You will be able to provide an update on any other funding applied for if invited to submit a full application.

More detail on value for money will be required at full application stage, including a breakdown of project costs, quotes received for project work, evidence of match funding and whether your group/organisation would be able to reclaim VAT.

## **5. Declaration**

Please ensure that this section of the form is completed and signed by an appropriate representative of the applicant group/organisation. By signing the declaration, this is also agreeing to the terms of the Privacy Statement.





## More information

The Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, and other information about the levy, can be viewed on the Council's website

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/cil](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/cil)

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

Email: [enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk)

[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)



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**Community Infrastructure Levy Fund  
Expression of Interest**

Please read the accompanying guidance notes before completing the Expression of Interest (EOI) form, as this will provide context and help you understand the type of projects we are looking to support. If you have any questions about your project or completing the EOI, or you are unable to submit the form by email, please contact the Infrastructure Team at [cil@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cil@cornwall.gov.uk) or telephone 0300 1234 151.

**Please submit the completed Expression of Interest form to the Infrastructure Team at [cil@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cil@cornwall.gov.uk) no later than 3pm on Friday 27 February 2026.**

### 1. Applicant Details

Name of applicant group/organisation	
Name of contact	
Position within applicant group/organisation	
Address	
Phone/mobile number	
Email address	
Briefly describe the purpose or main activity of your group/organisation	

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

#### Applicant eligibility

Please check the box which best reflects the nature of the group or organisation that is seeking to apply for this funding:

- ☐ Town, City or Parish Council
- ☐ Constituted community group – please provide your Registered Charity Number, if applicable:
- ☐ Not-for profit organisation – please provide your Company/Registered Number, if applicable:
- ☐ Cornwall Council department
- ☐ Other (please specify):





**Project eligibility**

Please cross the box(es) which best reflect what the project will deliver:

- ☐ Provision of new infrastructure
- ☐ Improvement to, or replacement of, existing infrastructure
- ☐ Operation or maintenance of existing infrastructure
- ☐ Other (please specify):

**3. Project Proposal****Project name**

**Project description**

In no more than 250 words, please tell us what your 'Connecting Communities' project is, where it is, and briefly explain how the project will:

- help development to come forward in the area, and/or
- address the cumulative impact of development.

You will have an opportunity to expand on this should you be invited to submit a full application, but it is important that you touch on both these points here as well.





#### 4. Value for Money

4.1 Estimated project cost: £

4.2 Amount of CIL funding likely to be requested if invited to full application: £

4.3 To date, has any additional funding been sought or secured for the project?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If yes, please provide details:

Source	Amount £	Confirmed *	Conditions attached	Spend deadline

\*if no, please provide a date of when a decision is expected.

#### 5. Declaration

I am authorised to submit this Expression of Interest form for CIL Funding on behalf of the organisation that I represent. To the best of my knowledge the information I have provided on this form is correct.

☐

I understand that, if my application is successful, the funding will not be given to my group/organisation upfront and that we must claim it retrospectively by providing evidence of expenditure during the course of delivering the project, and

☐

I confirm that the project for which this application relates has not already been delivered.

Signed:

Position in applicant organisation:

Date:

Please submit the completed, signed form to the Infrastructure Team at [cil@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cil@cornwall.gov.uk). If you are not able to submit this by email, please contact the Infrastructure Team on 0300 1234 151.

#### PRIVACY STATEMENT

The personal data collected on this form is necessary for processing your interest in applying for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant funding. This includes the consideration of whether to invite a full application and to ensure the effective management of CIL grant funding if approved.

If your Expression of Interest is unsuccessful, your personal data shall be deleted securely. If you are successful at Expression of Interest stage and your subsequent full project application is successful, then your data will be retained for the duration of the project applied for and for the full period in which the contract under which the monies are transferred is enforceable, and up to 7 years after the final CIL grant payment is made to the project. Your personal information will then be deleted securely.

Unless otherwise stated we will handle personal information in accordance with the Council's Privacy Policy, which can be found through our website at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/privacy).

