



**Cabinet**  
7 December 2020

**Report from the Assistant Chief  
Executive**

**Brent Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy  
(NCIL) Projects**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix One: Boundary Map
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge applied to eligible developments to help fund strategic (borough-wide) and neighbourhood infrastructure related to development. Brent's CIL was formally introduced on 1 July 2013.
- 1.2 The NCIL scheme is a key driver of positive change in the borough within the context of the Brent Borough Plan, 2019-2023. As can be seen within the descriptions of the project proposals included in this report, NCIL projects cut across the five overarching themes of the Borough Plan, both through the broad scope of individual projects and through the diversity of projects funded through NCIL. The five overarching themes in the Borough Plan are: Every opportunity to succeed; A future built for everyone, an economy fit for all; A cleaner, more considerate Brent; A borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy; Strong foundations.
- 1.3 This report requests that Cabinet approves the allocation of Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL) funds for 4 community projects from round one of the 2020/21 NCIL programme.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the NCIL allocation of:
- **£227,272.30** for Ultra Education CIC - It Takes a Village – Black Caribbean Boys of Excellence project: Working across families, schools and communities addressing the root cause of the underachievement of Black Caribbean Boys

- **£197,561.95 for** Asian Women's Resource Centre(AWRC) - Revitalise Project: To refurbish the AWRC building in Harlesden so that it is inclusive, accessible, welcoming , safe and comfortable for women, girls and children to access a range of holistic support services offered under one roof
- **£197,561.95** Mobs Ventures Ltd / Slenky Powering Change – Social, Mobile Engagement and Ethical AI Project: Developing and imbedding a digital programme aimed at engaging young people in new skills and employment that development has brought to the borough.
- **£146,698.63** EACH Counselling and Support, Strive Project: A mental health support programme for BME people to recover from the impact of Mental Health, Domestic Violence and Substance Misuse. Providing culturally sensitive Education Training Employment and counselling support

2.2 Please note, subsequent to cabinet approving any of these projects, the final stage will be:

The Grants Manager will give further scrutiny on ensuring a deliverable measurable outcome analysis is completed in conjunction with the organisation/Brent Council. This will form part of a signed funding agreement regularly monitored. If the outcomes are not in line with Brent Council priorities and not agreed, the funding offer may be withdrawn.

### 3. Neighbourhood CIL – Background

3.1 Brent's NCIL Programme has been a great success since its launch in 2017. Community groups, residents and stakeholders have been encouraged and supported to submit bids and, to date, over £12m of NCIL funds have been allocated to community infrastructure projects.

3.2 The CIL Regulations 2010 stipulate that at least 15 per cent of CIL receipts generated may be spent on neighbourhood projects, that is, infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area (capped at £100/dwelling each financial year).

3.3 Whilst the legislation does not prescribe a process for how NCIL is allocated, the expectation is that priorities are decided following engagement and consultation with the local community. As a result, Brent is divided into five CIL Neighbourhoods; Kilburn & Kensal, Kingsbury & Kenton, Wembley, Willesden and Harlesden.

3.4 Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, then up to 25 per cent of CIL collected from liable developments within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary may be spent on neighbourhood priorities. There are two adopted Neighbourhood Plans in Brent, Sudbury Town and Harlesden. A diagram showing the CIL Neighbourhood and Forum boundaries is in **Appendix 1**.

- 3.5 All shortlisted NCIL projects must be aligned to at least one of the Neighbourhood Priorities identified via consultation (January 2019). A summary of the current NCIL priorities is in **Table 1**:

**Table 1 NCIL Priorities**

CIL Neighbourhood	Community Space & Cultural facilities	Parks & Green Space	Town Centre & High Streets	Transport & Roads
Harlesden	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kilburn & Kensal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingsbury & Kenton	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wembley	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willesden	✓	✓	✓	✓

- 3.6 Applications for NCIL funds are allocated twice a year. The last round closed on 27 September 2020. All projects are assessed on how well they meet the NCIL shortlisting criteria by the NCIL panel, consisting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Properties and Planning; the Head of Planning and Development Services, Planning Transport and Licensing; the Head of Strategy and Partnerships; and a backbench councillor. All projects that meet the shortlisting criteria will receive a provisional offer of funding as long as NCIL funds are available and Brent Council's terms and conditions of grant funding are met. Following shortlisting by the panel, any request for NCIL funds over £100,000 in value must also receive final approval from Brent's Cabinet. This will be followed by agreeing measurable outcomes prior to signed funding agreement.

- 3.7 This specific round was capped at £2,000,000 with a focus on addressing inequalities in the long term and the disproportionate impact of Covid 19.

- 3.8 4 projects were shortlisted by the panel during September to November 2020 that were greater than £100,000 in value and requiring approval by cabinet.

- 3.9 The shortlisting criteria for all NCIL projects are as follows:

- Meets the terms of the CIL Regulations (2010) as amended
- Evidences community backing
- Addresses the demands that development places on an area
- Reflects the strategic priorities of the Council & CIL Neighbourhood
- A one-off scheme that does not require additional revenue funding in its delivery or its operation (or identifies how additional revenue funding may be met)
- Benefits a diverse Brent community
- Offers value for money

- 3.10 The 4 projects that Cabinet are asked to consider were submitted by

1. Ultra Education CIC
2. Asian Women's Resource Centre
3. Mobs Ventures Ltd / Slenky

#### 4. EACH Counselling and Support

One of these projects, Asian Women resource Centre, is to improve community facilities in Brent. The creation and improvement of community facilities will help address the demands that development places on local communities.

#### 4. Ultra Education – It takes a Village

4.1 Ultra Education sought funds to use entrepreneurship as a vehicle to increase the life chances and close the gaps in educational attainment and achievement of Black Caribbean Boys in Brent; positively tackling the disproportionate educational outcomes by bringing about a transformation in their school, community and home.

4.2 The 'It Takes a Village programme' will provide:

- Improved education, training, employment, and professional development within the community
- Improved supported learning at home
- Increased parent participation
- Increased understanding of complex trauma within both the School and African Caribbean communities
- Increased long term educational attainment and achievement through improving independent learning

4.3 The Project meets the CIL regulations by ensuring that regeneration has a positive impact on local communities who are not skilled to or do not have the voice to take advantage of opportunities in their environment e.g. jobs, volunteering and training. This project challenges these low expectations by strengthening the communities' voice, improving Black Caribbean Boys attainment and skills and establishing a legacy of achievement and excellence that will be built on in following generations of young people achieving a permanent approach to address the demands of development across Brent. The project is for 18 months with a plan to sustain this project longer term with alternative funding.

4.4 The Project will be delivered across the Borough of Brent with community support for the project based on cross borough organisations representing the target groups.

4.5 Ultra Education are registered on Companies house as a Community Interest Company (CIC) in Primary Education.

4.6 A summary of the provisional milestones for implementing these proposals is in **Table 2**.

<b>Programme Milestones</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
3 appreciative inquiry/cultural transformation workshops – Parent, schools and community	January – April 21
3 key surveys to identify the required changes and align children, schools, parents and community to a commitment to	January –April 21

the changes of behaviour required	
6 Quarterly Project Advisory Group (PAG) meetings	February 21 –July 22
3 Village Meetings across 18 months	February 21 – July 22
A mixture of primary (KS2) and secondary (year 7) schools engaged across the borough over 18 months	February 21 – July 22
5,000 hrs of entrepreneurial workshops delivered across weekly sessions of 1.5 hrs run during 18 months with 300 children. 4 x School insets run across 18 months.	February 21 – July 22

4.7 The total project cost has been calculated as £308,405 of which £227,272.30 is the total NCIL contribution. Match funding is from in kind donations and Ultra Education.

## 5. Women Asian Resource Centre - Revitalise

5.1 Women Asian Resource Centre (AWRC) sought funds to refurbish the AWRC building in Harlesden so that it is inclusive, accessible, welcoming, safe and comfortable for women, girls and children to access a range of holistic support services offered under one roof.

5.2 The project will

- Renovate outside of the building, rendering of the brickwork at the front and sides.
- Renovate ground floor to improve ventilation and improve wheelchair accessibility.
- Renovate first floor to improve facilities for varied use of activities e.g. cooking, yoga, workshops

5.3 The project meets the CIL regulations by improving facilities of a cultural hub in the community for women experiencing or have experienced abuse.

5.4 The community support has been provided by a survey completed about the project proposal and capturing over 100 residents supporting the proposal primarily from Harlesden however the project will support borough wide.

5.5 Asian Women Resource Centre is a registered charity that provides holistic support services to BAME women and children and prioritises work on issues around violence against women.

5.6 A summary of the provisional milestones for implementing these proposals is in **Table 3**.

Programme Milestones	Estimated Completion Date C
Works will begin on the outside of the building, the ground floor and first floors.	January 21
Rendering of the brickwork outside the building, Toilet for women with disabilities	January – June 21

Renovating inside space Improving the garden space at the back	
Open new building	July 21
Continue delivery of AWRC support services	July 21

5.7 The total project cost has been calculated at £200,000, of which £197,561.95 is the NCIL contribution.

## 6 Mobs Ventures Ltd / Slenky

6.1 Mobs Ventures Slenky sought funds to develop and implement a digital programme in Brent that connects 13 – 24 year olds with Shots (opportunities) related to their passions and interests. Shots are centralised on a content platform and distributed/targeted as social content. Future engagement is digital. Slenky digitally empowers young people, making organisations and opportunities digitally and socially accessible to all.

6.2 The project will deliver for young people in Brent, including students in Brent schools

- Free technology to search for/be notified of opportunities
- Improved long-term employment and economic prospects
- Improved early understanding of their Passions, interests and skills
- Improved early understanding of the relationship between their passions and different sectors
- Improved engagement with new and traditional sectors
- Improved early awareness of 'firewalled' and out of reach sectors
- Presented with higher earning sectors and skills at an earlier age
- Feel empowered to independently explore and secure opportunities
- Have increased access to non-employment opportunities e.g. cultural, well-being, sport
- Have access to digital work experience and digital employment opportunities within the Slenky team

6.3 The project meets the CIL regulations by developing a sustainable digital programme that will support the engagement of young people within the new businesses and work opportunities within the growing commercial and residential developments in Brent.

6.4 The community support provided is a number of letters from key cross borough organisations working with young people.

6.5 Mobs Venture is registered on Companies house as a private limited company

6.6 A summary of the provisional milestones for implementing these proposals is in **Table 4**.

<b>Programme Milestones</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Grow Brent-registered user base from 1200 to 5000	February 21
Year-on-year user base growth via innovation, increased quality of Shots and working with Brent to support schools' early careers services with free technology	Ongoing
500+ new opportunities accessible in Brent	March 21
Technology donations to 50+ Young Brent Foundation member organisations and 10 Brent schools donated technology	February 21
Technology donated to 5 + (qualifying) Brent-based start-ups donated	February 22
30 + Brent suppliers engaged as Shot providers (working with Brent)	February 21
5000 + app distribution across all wards	February 21
2000+ young people access opportunities from FA and Community Organisations strategy	February 22
Tech donated to 5 + (qualifying) Brent-based start-ups donated	February 21
AI driven content delivery	February 22
Tech donated to 5 + (qualifying) Brent-based start-ups donated	February 22

6.7 The total project cost has been calculated at £394,075 of which £197,561.95 is the total NCIL contribution. Match funding is contributed from SLENKY.

## **7 EACH Counselling and Support - STRIVE**

7.1 The EACH counselling sought funds for running and staffing costs to deliver the STRIVE, Mental Health Support Programme over one year.

7.2 The project will provide: Culturally sensitive based Employment Training and Education (ETE) and Mental Health (MH) counselling support for 150 vulnerable BMEs aged 18+ who need specialist support to identify, achieve and maintain their ETE goals and manage their MH Aims, reduce the impact of overall inequalities faced by BMEs in recovery from Domestic Violence, MH, or Substance Misuse so they achieve their ETE goals and maximise every opportunity to succeed.

7.3 The Project meets the CIL regulations by meeting the significantly increasing and diverse population needs e.g. increased need and demand for specialist support will rise in line with population growth. STRIVE will provide support to people living in the allocated social housing in new developments. Both short and long-term residents living in deprivation and or financial hardship will benefit from the service and have every opportunity to success along with their counterparts living in commercial and private allocated housing in the same developments. Strive will addresses barriers to employment by providing

clients with flexible support across the 4 CIL neighbourhoods in a range of community languages.

7.4 The community support for the project is a number of local resident signatures supporting the project primarily from Harlesden however, project will work across borough.

7.5 EACH Counselling and support is a registered charity whose principal activities are to facilitate and sustain positive changes in the lives of individuals, families and communities affected by problems arising from alcohol & drug misuse, domestic violence & related mental health concerns, by offering treatment services that are responsive high quality and provide effective & integrated interventions.

7.6 A summary of the provisional milestones for implementing these proposals is in **Table 5**.

<b>Programme Milestones</b>	<b>Estimated Date C</b>	<b>Completion</b>
Programme development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up referral pathways with at least 12 community providers across wards</li> <li>• Develop 1-2-1 and group programmes for counselling</li> <li>• Recruit train and induct 3 volunteer counsellors with relevant community languages.</li> </ul>	February 21	
3 x 16 week blocks  Delivering a total of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1920 1-2-1 personalised ETE support sessions</li> <li>•144 Group ETE activities</li> <li>•90 clinical assessments</li> <li>•1350 1-2-1 counselling sessions</li> <li>•144 therapeutic groups (comprising of 96 open groups, and 48 closed sessions)</li> </ul>	February 21 to January 22	
Block 1	February – May 21	
Block 2	June - September 21	
Block 3	October 21 - January 22	

7.7 The total project cost has been calculated at £157,339 of which £146,698.63 is the NCIL contribution. Match funding is from EACH.

## **8 Financial Implications**

8.1 The value of CIL funds available to fund neighbourhood projects is dependent on the number and value of CIL liable developments in each CIL Neighbourhood. As of 1 March 2020, approximately £7.6m was available to fund NCIL projects. This round was capped at £2m as it is specifically for projects addressing inequalities and the disproportionate impact of Covid 19. Cabinet is asked to approve the use of £769,094.83 to fund 4 NCIL Projects

over £100,000. Another 19 projects were awarded below the value of £100,000 totalling £1,230,905.17.

- 8.2 6 projects are addressing early intervention with children, young people and families to the value of £405,954  
1 project is supporting the black community and voluntary sector - grant funding and procurement to the value of £85,995  
2 projects are supporting embedding equalities to the value of £95,390  
3 projects are providing support for employment and enterprise to the value of £219,503  
2 projects are tackling health inequalities to the value of £167,206  
3 projects are addressing the Impact of COVID19 to the value of £148,537  
2 projects are addressing wider inequalities to the value of £113,359
- 8.3 Each project will be required to sign a funding agreement to confirm project milestones, deliverables and outcomes with payment instalments. The Council's Grants Team will conduct regular project monitoring.

## **9 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The Planning Act 2008, and CIL Regulations 2010, provide for local authorities to apply the CIL to infrastructure to support development. The Neighbourhood element may be used to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area (Reg. 59F).
- 9.2 CIL spend is governed by Part 7 of the CIL Regulations. For any financial year in which CIL, receipts are received, a report outlining receipts and expenditure must be prepared and published on the council's website. (Reg. 62).
- 9.3 Government Guidance (2014, as amended) states that the Council must engage the community where development has taken place and accordingly, agree with them how best to spend the funding. The use of neighbourhood funds should match the priorities expressed by the local communities.

## **10 Equality Implications**

- 10.1 In compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have "due regard" to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.2 The duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 10.3 An Equality Analysis (EA) of the NCIL programme was completed in December 2018. The overall assessment is that Brent's NCIL programme has a positive impact in terms of promoting equality. Each project also completes an initial screening of the likely impact of their plans on the protected characteristics.
- 10.4 The increase in high quality community facilities in the borough is likely to have a positive impact on all protected characteristics, however each of the projects will be asked to provide confirmed milestones for the refurbishment including a plan for how to manage any potentially negative impacts on particular characteristics whilst refurbishment work is taking place.
- 10.5 Project funding agreements and monitoring schedule will cover all impacts on protected characteristics for individual projects and ways to address if relevant.

## **11 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Properties and Planning is a member of the NCIL shortlisting panel, and has been consulted throughout the process. Letters of support from stakeholders (including ward members) were also received with the NCIL applications.

## **12 Human Resources / Property Implications (if appropriate)**

There are no Human Resources implications for Brent.

## **13 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Brent CIL Neighbourhood Boundaries

**Report sign off:**

**SHAZIA HUSSAIN**  
Assistant Chief Executive