



Westminster council invest £5m in local projects

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Westminster City Council has handed nearly £5m to community and infrastructure projects across the city at its latest CIL committee.

Among the projects awarded funding was a £1m investment in new facilities for Paddington Recreation Ground which will fund a new community hall, refurbished play facilities and a upgraded outdoor classroom for local young people.

The Community Infrastructure Levy – or CIL – is funded by developers which pay the authority a levy to be used for projects of benefit to the whole community in return for permission to build in Westminster.

Contributions from property developers have allowed Westminster City Council to create a £20m fund to spend on everything from public squares and school expansions to large transport schemes.

Westminster Council's latest CIL committee spent on a broad range of projects - from those that will have international reach for Westminster growth to smaller project that will really benefit local communities.

The Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood will also benefit from additional funding for air quality initiatives across the Marylebone area.

Westminster City Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Realm, Richard Beddoe said: "CIL funding is a fantastic way to give local projects a boost. This kind of investment ensures we all benefit from development and growth in our city and adds value for developers too."

Since May 2016, the CIL fund has collected nearly £20m and the council have already re-invested around £13m of that money back into the community.

This funding must be spent on infrastructure that supports Westminster's growth. Other planning powers allow the council to obtain contributions from developers to support facilities addressing the impacts of individual schemes.

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