

Community Governance Review: Transfer of Monetary Assets

Background

A meeting was held on 23rd January to discuss the principles of the Transfer Calne Without Parish Council's assets to follow the implementation of the Community Governance Review in May 2025. The meeting was attended by representatives of Bremhill Parish Council, Calne Town Council, Cherhill Parish Council, Compton Bassett Parish Council and Heddington Parish Council. Calne Without Parish Council was represented by Cllrs Deedigan, Price and Barnes, supported by our Parish Clerk, Katherine Checchia.

Outcome of Meeting of 23rd January

At the meeting, the representatives of Calne Without outlined the assets held by the Council and set out the proposed approaches agreed by the Council at the extraordinary meeting of 16th January.

There was broad consensus around the proposed "ground rules":

- Calne Without Parish Council (CWPC) will continue to maintain its Strategic Plan, which will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and executed until April 2025. Money may be allocated to partially completed projects in the 2025/26 financial year. Parishes who will inherit areas to which the Plan applies may be consulted on parts of it, but will have no right to veto any part of it.
- CWPC will continue to offer grant funding up to the end of 2025, in accordance with its robust procedures. CWPC will not do anything to artificially deplete its project funds prior to this date.
- CWPC will continue to follow its existing processes relating to financial management and will do nothing to artificially deplete its reserves, or abnormally raise its precept, in anticipation of the new financial situation in May 2025.
- CWPC will continue spending CIL money in the date order in which it was received.
- New fixed assets may be procured up until April 2025, without the need to consult the Parish Council to which that asset may transfer in the future.
- It is hoped that Middle Ward and East Ward councillors will be invited to participate in the 2025/26 budget setting process of their future parish councils. It is expected that they will abstain from the vote on the final CWPC 2025/26 budget.

There was broad consensus around the proposed approaches to four of the five asset types, as follows:

- General Reserves – to be divided between successor councils in direct proportion to the number of Calne Without households located within each successor council.
- Sun Edison Fund – to be transferred to Compton Bassett Parish Council.
- Fixed Assets – to be transferred to the successor council in which they are located.
- Portable Assets – to be retained by the future Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council, which shall provide reasonable facility to lend out to other successor councils for use in the former parts of Calne Without Parish.

In respect of CIL Reserves, the CWPC representatives put forward the Council's preferred approach:

- Funds committed to projects that have been fully approved by Calne Without Parish Council, but not yet completed, shall be transferred to, and held by the successor council responsible for completing the project, or Wiltshire Council, as appropriate. Such projects, along with the

funding required, are clearly identified in Calne Without Parish Council's Strategic Plan which will continue to be updated on a regular basis. Remaining CIL funds shall be transferred to the successor council in which the development, from which the funding was derived, is located.

Under this proposal, the majority of remaining CIL funds at 2025, associated with the Low Lane development, would therefore be due to transfer to Calne Town Council. Adjacent parish councils considered that this did not reflect the additional pressures that were put on their services, through, for example, impact on footpath usage.

Alternative suggestions for the allocation of remaining CIL funds included:

- Allocation based on based on land area transferred.
- Percentage split between where the money had originated and adjacent parishes
- A formulaic split where 70% would be allocated to where the money had originated, and 30% to adjacent parishes based on land area transferred.

Council representatives undertook to discuss the proposals with their respective parishes ahead of a follow-up meeting on Wednesday 5th April.

Recommendation

It is requested that the Council considers the alternative suggestions for the allocation of CIL funds and provides a negotiating mandate for the Council's representatives ahead of the meeting planned for 5th April.