

# Briefing note Parish Council Meeting



**Subject** Discussion on the use of CIL Money to pay for the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan re-run

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
**Presented by:** Cllr David Smith

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## 1. Background

At The Parish meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Agenda Item 60 related to The re-run of the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan due to public demand as c500 people were not communicated with during the various consultation periods of the plan. This item 60 was included in Item 56. A summary document was prepared by Cllr Thompson that was attached to the agenda papers. At the Parish Meeting it was presented to Councillors on the evening that all 8 items in the paper should be taken as a whole and voted upon in their entirety. This I believe was voted upon to “approve” by all Councillors present, except one Cllr who abstained and spoke out that item 8 of the paper could not be agreed with. At the time it should be noted that no publication of the likely amount of money needed for the re-run was mentioned to Councillors and so it should never have been voted on in that way as Councillors were agreeing to pay potentially ‘any’ amount and it was theoretically therefore a ‘blank cheque’ which is felt to be outside the scope of Standing Orders relating to expenditure. Since that time several Councillors have shown concern that the decision was made with no knowledge of the amount and also made to pay for the re-run of LA NP should not in fact come from CIL money allocated to Little Aston, hence in accordance with The Parish Standing Orders five Councillors have requested this item be put on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for wider discussion on this point 8 of the document and not the previous points 1 to 7 of that document.

## 2. Proposal

The interpretation is that in accordance with Standing Orders, this matter needs re-visiting now the amount is known. But as importantly, the attached extract of rules taken from the Official Government website and Lichfield District Council regarding the use of CIL Money shows clearly that CIL Money should be spent on infrastructure projects. It is felt that by allocating CIL Money to pay for a re-run of a NP is not a suitable use of CIL Money according to the various definitions and examples, especially from the internet search and the Government Website.

It is felt it is morally wrong that Little Aston residents should miss out on various possible infrastructure projects that could benefit the wider population of LA by using the CIL Money to pay for an issue created by The Parish Council LA NP Steering Group in not communicating with c500 residents out of c2920 (according to the 2011 Census) 17.12% of population.

The proposal therefore is not to use LA portion of CIL Money but instead for the amount c£2000 to be paid for from other Parish Funds.

## 3. Financial considerations

Parish records show that LA has an allocated £7000 of CIL Money to spend on infrastructure projects.

Using c£2000 of this for the correction of a plan would take 28.57% unnecessarily from residents. It is proposed therefore that this c£2000 is taken from other Parish Funds.

#### 4. Legal considerations

There is a risk that there could be a challenge from any source that The Parish should not have spent c£2000 on the re-run of this plan to in effect correct an error.

This could also affect the reputation of The Parish Council.

#### 5. Outcome required from Parish Council

For Council to re-consider the original decision made on 9<sup>th</sup> September as it was not aware of the full circumstances and amount.

Therefore now the amount (estimated) is known, plus the challenge presented that the use of the CIL money should not 'morally' be used for the re-run of the LA NP due to Parish communication issues, then A) An amount needs to be signed off by Council

B) The money to pay for A) should come from Parish funds and not LA portion of CIL Money

#### 6. Summary

An agenda item is now included for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 so that Councillors can discuss and consider the above points made in relation to the amount of the LA NP re-run and where the funds come from to pay for this re-run.

See attached supporting documentation.