

**TITLE: LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST**

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

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**Issue**

1. To consider the allocation of up to £100,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre expansion project.

**Recommendations**

2. Members are requested to approve the allocation of up to £100,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre expansion project.

**Background/Options**

3. East Cambridgeshire District Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 1 February 2013. The contributions raised through this levy are used to fund, in whole or in part, the necessary infrastructure to support growth and development in the district.
4. On 24 February 2026, the Council approved a new funding scheme to make receipts available to local infrastructure projects, with the eligibility and scoring criteria approved at Finance and Assets on 26 March 2026. The scheme opened on 13 April 2026.
5. Viva Arts and Community Group is requesting a funding contribution of £100,000 towards the expansion of the theatre to enable larger youth participation and provide enhanced and inclusive welfare and safeguarding spaces to continue to operate with full compliance with the Children in Entertainment Regulations.
6. Viva Arts and Community Group have completed various fundraising events and will provide a total of £40,000 from these events and their reserves to complete the £140,000 project. The application included letters of support from Soham Town Council, The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and The Anglia Learning Trust. In addition, a public consultation has been completed, and it has been evidenced that 20% of Soham residents responded positively to the proposal. Subject to planning permission being granted, work is expected to start in January 2027 and complete in August 2027.

## Arguments/Conclusions

7. The project will deliver improved facilities at an existing community facility and as such can benefit from CIL funding.
8. The project contributes to the delivery of the District Council's Corporate Plan under the 'Sustainable Communities' heading and improves the community, arts and cultural infrastructure for Soham and surrounding villages.
9. There are sufficient funds in the CIL account to meet this request, and as such, for the reasons set out above, Members are recommended to approve the funding allocation.

## Additional Implications Assessment

10.

<b>Financial Implications</b>  <b>NO</b>	<b>Legal Implications</b>  <b>NO</b>	<b>Human Resources (HR) Implications</b>  <b>NO</b>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>  <b>NO</b>	<b>Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)</b>  <b>NO</b>	<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)</b>  <b>NO</b>

## Appendices

None

## Background documents

Council – 24 February 2026 (Agenda Item 14)

Finance & Asset Committee – 26 March 2026 (Agenda Item 9)