

**City of Westminster
Written Council Question
Standing Order 9(c)**

The following sets out a question from Councillor Barbara Arzymanow asked, in accordance with Standing Order 9(c) of Councillor Geoff Barraclough, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development.

Councillor Barbara Arzymanow

CIL funding in Marylebone has taken a long time to build up the £1.6m. The current administration is asking for a staggering 80% contribution from the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum CIL pot for the Seymour Leisure Centre. Does the Cabinet Member think his actions are fair and democratic in view of other Marylebone projects in the pipeline?

Councillor Geoff Barraclough

Community Infrastructure Levy is a key part of planning gain and it should be spent on local infrastructure that benefits the community. The proposals for Seymour Leisure Centre have broad community support, and the proposals will deliver against a number of the Council's priorities for the use of CIL.

An application for Neighbourhood CIL funding has been submitted by the Seymour project team. This is to cover additional items included at the request of the local community, notably double glazed rooflights and a longer swimming pool. However, this Neighbourhood CIL application has not yet been determined and no decision has been made. In line with the council's commitment to engage with all Neighbourhood Forums, officers attended Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum to receive feedback on the application. Officers have also engaged with Marylebone Association who have a proposal to use Neighbourhood CIL for another project. Constructive dialogue is underway and will take place before any decision is taken.

Under the governance arrangements agreed by Cabinet in October 2022, where the value of a proposed NCIL funding of a project exceeds £250,000, that decision is not taken by the Cabinet Member, but by Cabinet. This provides an additional level of democratic accountability for a decision greater than £250,000.

Councillor Barbara Arzymanow

Please can the Cabinet Member confirm that if he is to use funds from the Marylebone Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy it must be in agreement with the local Neighbourhood Forum and Resident Associations.

Councillor Geoff Barraclough

Local Neighbourhood Forums are important consultees on NCIL proposals in their area. The council is consulting the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum - which includes the Marylebone Association as a member of the committee - on the proposed use of NCIL. It would not be appropriate to offer any unelected body of residents a veto on spending public money and the ultimate decision still rests with the Council.