



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
EPSOM & EWELL**

YOUTH SMALL GRANTS

5 MARCH 2012

KEY ISSUE

The key issue for consideration is to approve the process for decision-making on Youth Small Grants.

SUMMARY

As part of the transformation of the Services for Young People, the Committee has been given a new Youth Small Grants fund to deploy for the year 2012/13. The Committee is being asked to consider and agree the methodology for approving these bids from April 2012.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to agree the process for approving Youth Small Grants as set out within paragraphs 2.3 – 2.6 of this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Services for Young People are undergoing significant reform to enable the County Council to respond to several significant drivers of change. These drivers include reducing costs by 30% over the 2009 baseline; modernising the offer to young people so that it is better integrated, more preventative and targeted; and for services to be delivered more locally.
- 1.2 As part of this process, the successful bid under the Local Prevention Framework for the coming year was approved.
- 1.3 The Local Committee is being asked to agree the decision-making process of Youth Small Grants. Approval of the award of small grants to meet the needs identified in the needs assessment for Epsom & Ewell, in accordance with the allocated budget.

2.0 YOUTH SMALL GRANTS

- 2.1 In December 2011, the Committee noted that as of 1st April 2012, it will have £14,000 available to support small voluntary youth organisations with grants of £500 to £1,000 and exceptionally up to £5,000.
- 2.2 The Committee is now being asked to consider the Guidance and process for approval of the funds. This process was considered and support was given by the Local Committee Chairmen's Group on 31 January 2012.
- 2.3 It is recommended that all bids that are received before the first local committee of the municipal year will be included in a report for consideration at the first local committee meeting of the year. It is anticipated that the majority of the funding will be allocated at this meeting.
- 2.4 If there is funding unallocated after this meeting, then it is recommended that bids of over £1000 are considered for approval at future meetings of the committee. At this stage the Committee will be asked to agree to delegate powers for any remaining resources to the Head of Commissioning to approve any bids submitted under £1,000, in consultation with the local divisional member and a young person in between formal committee meetings. Bids approved under delegated powers between meetings will be included in the Youth Small Grants report for noting, in the same way as for Member Allocations.
- 2.5 The Commissioning Team will process the funding using the same methodology that is currently used for members allocations with a funding agreement and payment request form.

- 2.6 The recommendation is that the Local Committee agrees this methodology for processing the Youth Small Grants. The bid form is attached at Annex A.

3.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The Services for Young People *Fit for the Future* transformation programme has been subject to wide ranging consultation with groups of young people, staff, partner agencies. Members have been consulted through the County Council's PVR Member Reference Group.
- 3.2 Local Committee Chairmen views were sought on the Youth Small Grants process on 31 January 2012.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is anticipated that local commissioning will offer better value for money in that the outcomes commissioned will be more closely aligned to local need.

5.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The devolved commissioning budget is likely to be targeted on groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

6.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Local commissioning aims specifically to reduce offending and anti social behaviour and to increase participation.

7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is being asked to approve the process for processing Youth Small Grants so that the Services for Young People can start to advertise the fund to local community groups.
- 7.2 The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to approve the process for approving Youth Small Grants as set out within paragraphs 2.3 – 2.6 of this report.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations will allow officers to implement these strands of the transformation project of Services for Young People.

9.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The next steps will be for the Commissioning Team to advertise, scrutinise and present bids for the Youth Small Grants in time for June/July local committee meeting.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Services for young people – briefing for elected members (issued May 2011)

ANNEX A: Bid form for Youth Small Grants