



LOCAL COMMITTEE DELEGATED FUNDS- CAPITAL ALLOCATION

**GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE
20 January 2005**

KEY ISSUE:

To consider how to spend the new capital allocation of £35,000 for voluntary for community use.

SUMMARY:

For 2004/5, Local Committees have been given an additional amount of delegated funds; a capital allocation to support voluntary or community organisations. This report considers the options and specific proposals and makes recommendations on how to use the funding.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree the specific proposals in Section 4 to grant support five projects.

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Financial Framework for Local Committees gives them the flexibility to spend on locally determined purposes that meet local social, economic or environmental well-being.

- 1.2 As with all expenditure by the Council, spending by Local Committees should:
- be directed to activities for which the County Council has legal powers;
 - meet demonstrable local needs;
 - deliver value for money, so that there is evidence of the outcomes achieved;
 - be consistent with County Council policies;
 - be approved through a process that is open and transparent, consultative, accountable and auditable; and
 - where appropriate, allow opportunities to be taken to pool funds with partner organisations.
- 1.3 Local Committees have three sources of funding for which they have delegated authority. For 2004/5 these are:
- a) a Revenue budget per Member of £12,500;
 - b) a Capital budget for the Committee of £135,000;
 - c) a Capital budget for the Committee of £35,000 for grants to voluntary organisations.
- 1.4 The Members' Revenue budgets (see para. 1.3 a) are regularly spent by the Committee via a process established over the past three years; so for example, the latest Revenue bids are discussed under the following Item 11 on the agenda.
- 1.5 The capital funding for locally determined schemes can be used only on capital projects and may not be used to support revenue expenditure, such as staffing. The funds can be used only in the process of creating or extending the useful life of an asset, such as land, buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment or infrastructure.
- 1.6 The capital budget of £135,000 is primarily allocated for transportation purposes, although this funding can be used for other functions. However, for 2004/5, the Guildford Local Committee decided at its meeting on 11/3/04 to allocate this funding to the Local Transportation Plan budget.
- 1.7 The rest of this report is concerned with the other capital allocation of £35,000. This funding must meet the basic criteria set out in paras. 1.2 and 1.5 above. Although primarily allocated for the purpose of support to the voluntary sector, this funding may be used for other functions. This flexibility is important in allowing consideration being given to a range of community projects or partnerships that might not meet a strict definition of a voluntary group. However it is worth stressing that the intention of this capital allocation is support the voluntary sector, but not the capital infrastructure costs of SCC or other statutory agencies.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 From discussions with the SCC Members of the Committee, consideration has been given on how to utilise the capital allocation of £35,000. The main options that emerged from this process were that the funding could be applied to:
- use all £35k for one project or theme for the year
 - split the allocation 3-ways, either geographically (e.g. East; Guildford Town & West) or by theme (Youth; Environment; Elderly)
 - seek matched funds of £35k from a partner agency to create a larger pot; or
 - split the allocation to add an equal amount to each Members Revenue Allocation, and then ascribe this amount to any capital uses.
- 2.2 Members were not in favour of the last option, as this would water down the impact that could be achieved and additionally would have created a disproportionate amount of administration. There was a range of views on the other 3 options (spend it all on one project; split it 3 ways; or match it with partner funds). Members were then consulted to suggest specific projects or ideas that they wished to use the money for.
- 2.3 Members gave a range of ideas on the specific projects that could be supported from their knowledge of the local area. These included the following:
- **Tongham Community Centre/sports pavilion**
 - **Spectrum Leisure Centre** for example installation of photovoltaic cells and energy efficient heating & cooling system
 - **New Youth Centre** in Ward Street, provision of equipment, as identified by young people
 - **Surrey Scouts Bentley Copse** improvements
 - **Holbury St Mary's Youth Hostel** improvements
 - **Supply of defibrillators** in public places.
- 2.4 In addition to the above proposals some recent suggestions from services have been.
- Support the provision of more **Teen (i.e. Youth) Shelters**, already planned to be installed by GBC
 - **Waterside Centre rebuilding** to support Kayak Club, University Sub Aqua Club, Multiple Sclerosis Society

3. CONSULTATIONS

SCC Members have been consulted on the principles, process and specific projects to be supported.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the preferences shown by Members, the voluntary, community or partnership aspects of the projects, it is recommended that the following projects be supported:

- a) Tongham Community Centre- grant of £10k;
- b) New Youth Centre – grant of £5k;
- c) Holmbury St Mary Youth Hostel- grant of £5k;
- d) Teen Shelters – grant of £10k
- e) Waterside Centre – grant of £5k.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Financial Framework for Local Committees-
report to Surrey County Council on 27/7/04
