



LOCAL COMMITTEE CAPITAL FUNDING

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)

5TH MARCH 2007

KEY ISSUE

To consider the proposals contained within the report for funding from the Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) delegated funding 2006/07.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council Local Committees receive delegated funding to allocate on locally determined purposes that meet local social, economic or environmental well-being.

For 2006/07 the County Council have delegated £99,000 revenue funding (£11,000 per County Councillor) and £35,000 capital funding for voluntary organisations. **This report focuses on the capital funding.**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider which of the following projects be awarded funding from 2006/07 Local Committee delegated capital budget of £35,000:
 - Merstham Community Facility (Merstham Community Facility Trust)
 - Greenway / Colebrook Road Multi-Use Games Area (Hyde Housing Association)
 - Youth Drop-In Facility (Sovereign Youth Centre)
 - Cromwell Road Multi-Use Games Area (Reigate and Banstead Borough Council)
 - Whitebushes Village Hall Renovation (Whitebushes Village Hall Trustees)
 - Walton on the Hill Multi-Use Games Area (Walton on the Hill Village Forum)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Local Committees have been delegated power to take decisions in response to local needs within the County Council's power of well-being, up to a maximum sum per County Council member of the Committee. In addition the County Council have also delegated a capital sum to Local Committees. This funding is determined annually as part of the Council's budget process.
- 1.2 The County Council also delegated £100,000 capital funding to each Local Committee. This funding was used to support local transportation projects. The Local Transportation Manager provides separate reports on this funding.

2 FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL COMMITTEES

- 2.1 To give Local Committees maximum flexibility, the key underlying principle is that Local Committees are at liberty to spend on locally determined purposes that meet local social, economic or environmental well-being.
- 2.2 When the Local Committee was established in April 2002, it was resolved that priorities for spending the delegated funding should come from the County Council's corporate plan, or the Reigate & Banstead community plan, or other sources, or any combination of these. A summary of these priorities is attached as Annex A.

3 LOCAL COMMITTEE DELEGATED BUDGETS 2006/07

- 3.1 At the annual budget meeting on 7th February 2006, the County Council approved delegated funding to Local Committees of £11,000 revenue funding per County Council member and £35,000 capital for voluntary organisations per Committee. There is also £2,444.66 revenue funding remaining to be allocated. Therefore the Local Committee could allocate a total of £37,444.66 if desired. Any funding unallocated will be lost.
- 3.2 Members have received copies of all the bids received for Local Committee capital funding. The following paragraphs summarise the bids received:

1. MERSTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, PORTLAND DRIVE SHOP UNIT

Amount Requested up to £34,500

Summary of Proposal

The Merstham Community Facility Trust (MCFT) is a newly established organisation. MCFT exists to provide a community facility in the heart of Merstham, which is one of the areas of highest need within Surrey. MCFT have negotiated the lease of 44 Portland Drive, which was formally used as a shop and store. The Trust is planning to convert the unit into a community centre for local residents and groups. It is hoped that the centre will increase access to services offering support and training, as well as community empowerment and enrichment.

Interest in using the facility has been expressed by organisations including Citizens Advice Bureau, Richmond Fellowship, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Youth Development Service and East Surrey College.

The total cost of refurbishing the shop unit is estimated to be £44,000, with an additional £20,000 needed for an IT suite.

MCFT have obtained 12 months free rent for the shop unit as well as £29,500 from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

MCFT is hopeful that the centre will be self supporting once established, through room hire charges.

2. GREENWAY / COLEBROOK ROAD MULTI-USE GAMES AREA

Amount Requested £15,275

Summary of Proposal

The area has suffered from a range of anti-social behaviour including vandalism, harassment, intimidation and racial attacks.

Initial consultation with young people has identified a lack of diversionary facilities for them in the Greenway / Colebrook Road area of Redhill. Hyde Housing have developed proposals for a multi-use games area (MUGA).

The MUGA will benefit all residents as it will provide diversionary activities to improve the relationship with the local authority, Police, and the housing providers by showing that the partnership responds to requests from residents. The MUGA will hopefully reduce the level of anti-social behaviour and therefore release resources for other areas within the Borough.

If the funding is allocated, Hyde Housing will undertake a formal consultation with all residents. The Housing Association will provide the staff resources for this work and to coordinate the installation of the MUGA.

3. YOUTH DROP IN FACILITY

Amount Requested £17,950

Summary of Proposal

The Sovereign Youth Centre is planning to build a new drop in facility for local young people. This will be in a self contained unit and include a meeting hall, kitchen and coffee bar area.

The facility will then be used to target youth work with the aim of raising self esteem and self awareness. It will also be used to provide support and advice to young people, motivate interests in the community, and help promote acceptable behaviour.

The total cost of the construction of the building extension, and reinstate the all weather play area is £120,000. To date the Youth Centre has been successful in raising £100,000. The local County Councillor has also proposed to allocate £2,050 towards this project.

The Sovereign Youth Centre will be responsible for the maintenance and day to day running costs of the new facility.

4. CROMWELL ESTATE MULTI-USE GAMES AREA

Amount Requested £20,000

Summary of Proposal

The Cromwell Road estate is an area of higher need within the Borough, and suffers from higher rates of anti-social behaviour and poor health.

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council is aiming to rejuvenate a popular but under utilised area of green space within the estate. Through consultation, young people have requested that youth facilities be provided in this space. The consultation also indicated that the lack of facilities is causing drinking, vandalism and intimidation.

Therefore there are plans to install a youth shelter, graffiti boards, picnic tables/benches, litter bins, fencing, and a multi-use games area (MUGA).

The total cost of the proposals is £86,000. To date, £66,000 has been promised from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Raven Housing Trust, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and corporate sponsorship.

The Local Committee is being asked to agree capital funding for the MUGA.

A MUGA is a cost effective way of providing facilities for a range of sport and recreational activities in a small space.

The new facilities will reduce boredom by providing a place for young people to go that is safe. It will provide a physical outlet for emotions and energy and promote constructive activities and pride in the neighbourhood.

Nearby areas of Timperley Gardens and Rivers Estate, which suffer from similar problems, are within walking distance and would also benefit.

It is hoped that the facilities will be in place within three months of funding being awarded. This would mean that they are ready for the summer holiday period.

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council have agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of the new facilities.

5. WHITEBUSHES VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION

Amount Requested £10,000

Summary of Proposal

Whitebushes Village Hall needs improvement works to allow it to be opened up to the community. The hall could then be used for a wide range of needs and actions that have been identified through consultation work and become a true community resource.

The Borough Council Local Community Action Plan process has highlighted the need to create a community identity and venue for activities. A lack of social and leisure provision for young people was also identified.

Planned works include repairs to the roof, access improvements, new toilet facilities, new lighting, new heating system, and other general redecoration work.

Local residents have recently taken over as trustees of the Village Hall. The hall will create a local community hub, helping to create community identity and a sense of place. They plan to include local young people in the refurbishment works, and make the hall a place for young people to come.

The total cost of the renovation works is estimated to be £20,000. Reigate and Banstead have already approved £10,000 from their capital grants scheme.

6. WALTON ON THE HILL MULTI-USE GAMES AREA

Amount Requested £10,000

Summary of Proposal

Walton on the Hill Village Forum are working with the Borough Council to develop a multi-use games area (MUGA) for the village.

This will involve the development of the current limited sports facilities at Howards Close recreation ground. The MUGA will provide an all weather sports facility comprising of a 30m x 12m fully enclosed steel ball court system. The court would be marked out for 5 a side football, basketball and tennis. With limited public transport in the evenings and at weekends, it can be difficult for young people to access facilities. Boredom is often given as a reason for anti-social behaviour. Therefore, improving the facilities in Walton on the Hill, would give young people somewhere to meet and take part in activities.

The total cost is estimated to be £70,000. The Borough Council Local Community `Action Plan budget has agreed to allocate £7,000 and residents SHED (Local Residents Organisation) funding has allocated £4,000. The project has also been agreed as the recipient of fund raising from the next two annual Walton on the Hill May pageant. Further fundraising will be coordinated by a village MUGA fundraising committee. This group will make applications to bodies such as Sport England.

Future maintenance will be assured by providing a continuing maintenance fund.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Local Committee delegated capital funding for 2006/07 is £35,000. The Committee must consider which of the proposals detailed in section three of this report it would like to support with delegated capital funding for voluntary organisations (up to a total of £35,000).
- 4.2 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money and it is recommended that they should be approved.

LEAD OFFICER: **Lynne Martin, Area Director**
TELEPHONE: **01737 737694**

CONTACT OFFICER: Gavin Handford, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
TELEPHONE: (01737) 737695

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PRIORITIES

In May 2005, the County Council agreed to focus its work on the following core areas of improvement:

- Extending social care for Surrey's vulnerable adults;
- Improving services for children, families and young people;
- Improving the roads & traffic management;
- Reducing waste, improving recycling rates and finding the best solution to getting rid of Surrey's growing waste mountain;
- Improving community safety & reducing anti-social behaviour;
- Improving our customer services and engagement with residents;
- Keeping the council tax down and providing value for money.

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

The current Community Plan in Reigate and Banstead was adopted in 2003 and contains the following priorities:

- **Caring for the environment** - providing a clean, safe and well designed environment for all to enjoy both now and in the future;
- **Creating a safe place to live, work and visit** - making Reigate and Banstead a safer and more pleasant place;
- **Tackling traffic Problems** - providing an efficient, affordable and practical transport network;
- **Helping older people to stay independent** - allowing older people to stay independent and healthy through community-based services;
- **Providing facilities / opportunities for young people** - improving life-chances for young people in the Borough;
- **Providing low-cost housing** - helping people to live in affordable, good quality local accommodation;
- **Making it easier to find out about services and how to get help** - ensuring everyone can easily get information and help when they need it;
- **Raising levels of learning and skills** - providing opportunities to continue learning and gaining new skills;
- **Helping families with children** - co-ordinating and improving provision for families.