



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)

SMALL DISADVANTAGED AREAS FUND

1 NOVEMBER 2010

KEY ISSUE

To decide which of the bids submitted should be recommended to the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel for funding consideration.

SUMMARY

Local Committees have been asked to consider and prioritise bids submitted for funding within their borough, and recommend to the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel those which it considers should be funded through the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund.

Three bids have been submitted to the Local Committee (Runnymede) for consideration. Copies of the bid documentation are attached (**Annexes 1- 3**).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The local committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider all the bids detailed in paragraph 2.4 (and attached at Annexes 1 - 3);
- (ii) Agree which bid or bids they wish to submit to the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel; and
- (iii) Consider what order of priority they wish to reflect in their submission.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 In May 2010, Dr Andrew Povey, the Leader of Surrey County Council, announced a new fund from the Project Initiatives Fund called the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund.

1.2 In launching this fund, the Leader said that:

“The extent of borrowing undertaken by the previous government is such that there will inevitably be a reduction in public expenditure over the next few years. In Surrey, I feel it is important that we try to help some of our more disadvantaged areas to help themselves to develop economically, socially and in a way that is sustainable.

Projects could well take on board the ‘Digital Inclusion’ work, which is one way of strengthening communities, but ideas and innovation are welcome!”

1.3 The purpose of the fund was to develop initiatives which reduce inequalities and empower small to medium-sized communities in Surrey which experience relative disadvantage to work with the County Council and other relevant partners to develop local solutions to the problems facing them.

1.4 He requested that local committees assess the bids that are submitted for projects within their area, and decide which of the bids should be submitted for consideration by the central Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel. The Panel would then meet in December to consider the recommendations, and a formal announcement of those that had been successful would be made at the Council meeting on 14 December 2010.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 All projects that are being submitted to the Panel for consideration will be expected to have demonstrated the following:

- **Innovation:** model new ways of listening to residents (such as digital inclusion) and involving them in developing services, which meet the needs of their neighbourhood in a sustainable way.
- **Involvement:** work with residents, statutory partners and the voluntary/faith sector to embed increased confidence and cohesion in communities, which make a difference & can lead to sustained improvements in quality of life, opportunities and achievement.
- **Integration:** demonstrate genuine partnership working which pursues a shared vision (ideally through the relevant Local Strategic Partnership), operates with a “Total Place” methodology in terms of sharing resources and involves services adjusting their delivery to reflect local conditions.

2.2 They will also be required to show how they relate and contribute to the County Council's five strategic themes:

- Core Offer
- Personal responsibility
- Deciding and delivering locally
- Prevention
- Working together

2.3 In addition, the Local Committee are asked to recommend projects where the Committee can demonstrate that the projects have:

- Made progress in taking forward the principles of Localism and "Total Place".
- Developed a clear understanding of the profile of disadvantage in their borough.
- Evidenced multi-agency activity that responds to needs and opportunities in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Addressed improvements in education, skills, tackling anti-social behaviour/vandalism and other social matters of concern.
- A continuing record of investment in projects or have an emerging focus of priority which could strengthen these neighbourhoods and increase the range of opportunities available to their residents
- The potential to deliver sustained capacity-building in that community.

2.4 Three bids have been submitted to the Local Committee (Runnymede). In summary, the bids comprise:

Englefield Green Village Centre: digital inclusion equipment (Annex 1)

Applied for: £29,000.

The Village Centre is located close to Englefield Green West which scores highly for income deprivation affecting children, and young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) as well as having relatively low car ownership. A recent survey in the super-output area indicated only 58% of the sample had access to computers at home, and 43% had no qualifications.

The Centre proposes to develop a digital suite and audio-visual centre for local residents of all ages to drop in and use the computers, printers and photocopiers to learn new skills, apply for jobs and training, and audio-visual to develop a film club bringing residents together. This is supported by the Village Residents Association.

Supporting family learning and developing children's verbal skills in Chertsey Partnership primary schools (Annex 2)

Applied for: £14,000

Chertsey St Ann's (006D) has the worst score for the education and training domain (IMD 2007) in the county, and a multi-agency group

has been working for some time to promote family learning, increase access to adult learning opportunities, and raise childrens' attainment and aspirations. The schools' confederation in Chertsey, which includes the children's centre, has also identified that childrens' verbal and listening skills from reception onwards are in need of development, and this bid proposes to increase family involvement and the attainment of children from the super-output area by providing the following in each of the primary schools which they attend:

- story telling workshops with parents and children to improve communication and listening
- drama/theatre workshops (to which parents are invited) to develop confidence, self-esteem and verbal communication
- "Connex" workshops where fathers and children build their own creations using playbricks, developing communication and positive relationships for future support.

Equipping a young peoples' meeting place in Egham Hythe (Annex 3)

Applied for: £2,000

The Egham Hythe ward was within the top ten wards in Surrey for NEET young people at the last count, with 13 young people in this category, and the area has been subject to a Section 30 order for youth disorder within the last year. The nearest youth centre is on the opposite side of Egham and the M25, and both residents and local agencies consider that provision of a youth drop-in base within the Pooley Green/Hythe neighbourhood could divert young people from anti-social behaviour and provide positive activities.

The system-built cabin is the subject of an application to the Youth Opportunities capital fund (to be determined) but funding is requested to provide some basic furniture, equipment and paint for when the cabin is installed, hopefully in Spring 2011.

3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All successful bids will be funded out of the allocated money within the Project Initiatives Fund. The essence of the Fund is to provide communities with the ability to support themselves over a sustained period. The project outlined at **Annex 3** is dependent on success with an application to Youth Opportunities Fund for a youth cabin.

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The successful bids will support some of the more disadvantaged areas of Surrey to develop sustainable mechanisms to develop economically and socially.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the projects identified in Annex 1 and 3 will contribute to a reduction in anti-social behaviour by offering alternative and positive activities for young people in the areas identified.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendation is that the committee assess the bids submitted for consideration and recommend to the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel those it would recommend for funding.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The proposals brought before the committee fulfil the criteria for the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund.

8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 The Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Panel will consider all the recommended bids in December and formally announce the successful candidates at the Surrey County Council meeting on 14 December 2010.
- 8.2 The successful candidates will then have until March 2012 to utilise the funds as set out within their bid form and will have to report back the outcomes of their spend by June 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Bids guidance
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