



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)

SMALL DISADVANTAGED AREAS FUNDING

7 February 2011

KEY ISSUE

To report on the result of the County Panel's decisions to award funding from the Policy Initiatives budget to small disadvantaged areas. A total of £17,000 has been awarded to projects in Runnymede.

SUMMARY

The Leader announced in 2010 that a sum of £200,000 would be allocated from 2011/12 from the policy initiatives budget, to help small disadvantaged areas in the county. Local committees were invited to bid for the funds, and the Local Committee (Runnymede) agreed to submit three proposals at its meeting in November. Two of the nominated projects (in Englefield Green West and Egham Hythe) were successful in attracting funding.

This report is for **information only**.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1** At the County Council of 23 March 2010, the Leader announced that £200k would be made available in 2011-12 from the policy initiatives budget, to help small disadvantaged areas in Surrey.
- 1.2** The purpose of the fund is 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.
- 1.3** Local Committees were invited to take an active role in providing, developing and submitting applications for the fund, and in monitoring the outcomes. Local members were involved in bringing forward applications to the Committee to recommend for funding.

2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1** The Local Committee (Runnymede) had previously taken reports on priority areas in the borough, including Egham Hythe, Chertsey St Ann's and Englefield Green West where joint working between various agencies has resulted in better co-ordinated and improved service provision.
- 2.2** The Village Centre, Englefield Green submitted an application for £29,000 to cover the costs of a computer suite and audio-visual resources to enable it to deliver a range of benefits to the community. The Panel agreed to award £15,000 towards this project.
- 2.3** The Chertsey Partnership submitted a request for £14,000 to deliver a range of drama, story telling and practical workshops in its primary schools to help deliver improved verbal and communication skills in young children and to engage families in their learning. On this occasion funding was not awarded.
- 2.4** In Egham Hythe and Pooley Green, the 2015 Tenants Group is working on a project to deliver a temporary portacabin for young people to meet, and requested funding for £2,000 to equip the interior (the cabin is to be funded from another source). The Panel agreed to award £2,000 for use in 2011-12, when it is expected that the cabin will be installed following consultation.

3 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 3.1** Letters giving details of the funding awarded were sent to the Village

Centre, Englefield Green and to the 2015 Tenants Group in Egham Hythe in December 2010, and both organisations have replied with thanks to confirm that they expect to begin the projects in 2011-12. The Chertsey Partnership has also been notified.

- 3.2 The funding will be released in the next financial year, and must be spent by April 2012. The Local Committee will be kept informed of the outcomes of these projects as they develop.

LEAD OFFICER: Carolyn Rowe (Area Director)
TELEPHONE: 01483 518093
EMAIL: carolyn.rowe@surreycc.gov.uk

LEAD CONTACT OFFICER: Sylvia Carter (LCPO)
TELEPHONE: 01932 794081
EMAIL: sylvia.carter@surreycc.gov.uk